

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli army lieutenant appeared in court on Sunday on suspicion of helping anti-Arab Jewish militants obtain weapons, police said. Israel's army radio later said two more people were arrested in the case. Police, citing a court order they said was issued later in the day barring publication of details of the case, would not comment on that report. Oran Edri, 22, a resident of the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, near Hebron in the occupied West Bank, was arrested on Friday when he applied for army permission to travel abroad. At a remand hearing in the northern city of Haifa, Adri denied allegations he aided Jewish militants and got them army weapons for use against Arabs, police said. The magistrate's court ordered him held in custody for another nine days to allow police to complete their investigation. Army radio said Edri was affiliated with a Jewish seminary in the West Bank whose rabbi had expressed support for Baruch Goldstein, a U.S.-born settler who massacred more than 30 Arabs in a Hebron mosque in February. The report did not say which militant groups were involved in the alleged weapons plot. After the Hebron slaughter, Israel banned several anti-Arab organisations linked to the late anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane and arrested their leaders.

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Cruise cancelled on mystery illness

LOS ANGELES (R) — A luxury liner abruptly cancelled Friday morning's departure from Los Angeles following the outbreak of a very intestinal illness that killed more than 400 passengers and crew and may have caused the death of one. A spokesman for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines said the company had decided to cancel the three-day cruise aboard Viking Princess after being told by health officials that the illness was caused by a virus.

Taiwan jails teacher for boy's death

TAIPEI (R) — A Taiwan nursery school teacher has been sentenced to seven and a half years in prison after a four-year-old boy suffocated when the teacher locked him in a school car, a court spokesman said on Saturday. Feng Shion-Ling, 18, a teacher at a nursery school in the southern county of Pingtung, locked a four-year-old boy in a school car last April for six hours as a punishment after the boy quarrelled with other students. Feng was found dead in the car six hours later. Feng's parents told local newspapers they would appeal because the sentence for the teacher was too light.

Poisoned arrows latest in Khmer Rouge arsenal

BANGKOK (AFP) — Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas said Saturday they had added poisoned arrows to their arsenal of weapons. In a broadcast monitored in Thailand, Khmer Rouge radio gave a long list of villages where bows and poisoned arrows were being manufactured for use against government troops. The radio also said new traps had been laid for government troops around Khmer Rouge-held villages consisting of camouflaged ditches filled with bamboo spikes sharpened to a sharp point.

Singaporean sentenced to death for drug trafficking

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singaporean Tan Yew Lee has been sentenced to death by hanging for drug trafficking. A High Court official said Saturday, Tan, 35, was found guilty of possession of 11 packets of heroin, weighing a total of 1.4 kilograms, late last year. His sentence was handed down Friday. Tan has an automatic appeal against the death sentence which is mandatory for drug trafficking. An individual caught with 15 grammes or more of heroin is deemed to be a drug trafficker. Since the introduction of the mandatory death sentence in 1975, when the drug laws were amended, 76 people have been hanged, about half of them foreigners. About another 50 people are either awaiting trial for drug trafficking, or appealing against death sentences.

New San Francisco faultline discovered

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AFP) — Scientists have discovered a deep faultline in the earth's crust linking the two known major faultlines along the west coast of the United States, the magazine Science reported in its latest issue Friday. The 65-kilometre faultline, running to a depth of 15 kilometres between San Jose and Vallejo, links the San Andreas and Hayward faultlines and could be the trigger for periodic earthquakes in the San Francisco bay area, the magazine said. So far unnamed, the fault is too deep to cause quakes itself but could permit energy to pass from one of the major faultlines to the other and thereby cause an earthquake movement. An official of the U.S. Geological Survey, Thomas Brocher, said the discovery would not allow it to predict earthquake but would improve its detection service.

Prince Hassan addresses economic forum:

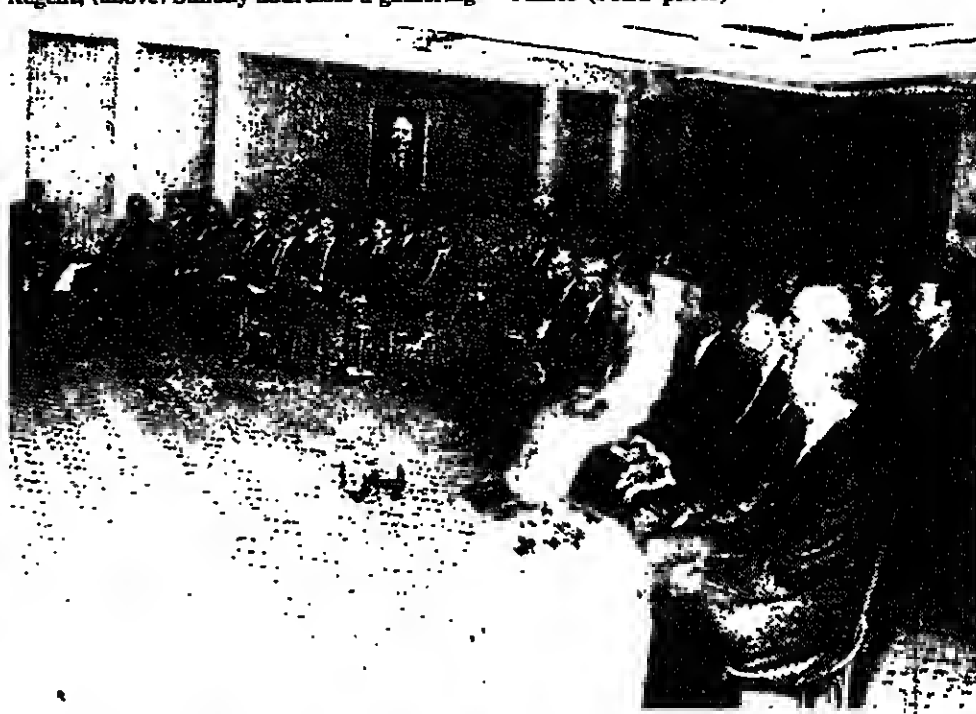
Regent calls for interaction between all sectors, people 'Royal commission no substitute for Parliament, government; normalisation is not subjugation'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday at the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Development (RCMD) that the commission is not a substitute for Parliament, government, or normalisation. He said the commission is a tool to help create a national atmosphere for the adoption of a sound course of action and attitudes with which we can deal with the world community so that our voices can be heard loud and clear and win the world's respect. "The Royal Commission is not a substitute parliament and it cannot hold the government to account for its actions. Rather the commission members aim at creating a national and public view that can contribute towards the emergence of a new Jordan," the Regent emphasised. The Regent underlined the need for defining the meanings of the different terms employed in the commission's dealing with the upcoming developments. For example, he said there was a big difference between the term "normalisation" and the term "subjugation" as the two terms have different connotations. "Allow me to stress here that the general political course preserves the sensitive balance between progress in the political and legal levels; that is demarcation of borders and the question of water on the one hand and discussing the economic future on the other," the Regent explained. "I say that there is a sensitive balance between the two sides, because I fully realise the magnitude of temptations before the countries of the region," he told the audience. "Allow me to say that I am one of those who reject the term 'normalisation' as being equal to 'subjugation' in meaning when discussing the preservation of the entire image," he noted. "If we wanted to talk about consistent normalisation to achieve progress at the political and legal levels... like demarcation of borders, the water dimension and Jordanian rights as I have said on more than one occasion and during the ceremony for opening the border crossing point some days ago in the presence of the Israeli Prime Minister... the consistency should be reflected in deeds rather than words," he stressed. Commission member and Minister of Supply Adel Qudah outlined his team's mission and the activities so far taken and the meetings held to promote the concept of a lucrative investment climate in the Kingdom. (Continued on page 12)

become more productive. "We are for modernising laws and legislations with a view to involving all classes in shouldering responsibility which should not remain confined to the government alone," said the Regent. "We have to reaffirm the basic principles when we seek modernisation and we have to achieve harmony between political and legal matters on the one hand and the economic affairs and the economic future on the other," Prince Hassan said. "The Royal commission is not here to hold people to account for their actions but rather to encourage work to be done freely and fairly in the service of the nation," the Prince said. "The commission has been set up to help create a national atmosphere for the adoption of a sound course of action and attitudes with which we can deal with the world community so that our voices can be heard loud and clear and win the world's respect," he added. "The Royal Commission is not a substitute parliament



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, (above) Sunday addresses a gathering of economic leaders (below) at the Royal Palace (Petra photo)



Majali returns from U.S. lecture tour

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday returned home from the United States where he delivered lectures at the World Affairs Council on peace and economy in the Middle East. Dr. Majali explained Jordan's position towards the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region. In an arrival statement Dr. Majali said his trip was different from previous ones because it took place in response to an invitation by Rand Corporation, a well-known U.S. institution that conducts research on peace and the economy in the Middle East. "Rand Corporation had originally invited His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to give a lecture on peace, but Prince Hassan apologised. Therefore they invited me to give lectures on peace and the economy in the region and I accepted their invitation," Dr. Majali told Jordan Television. Dr. Majali said peace negotiations between Jordan and Israel are going on, but added that Jordan has sufficient assurances that its occupied land and water will be restored in full. He stressed that there will be no alternatives for the fundamental issues Jordan has raised. On the slow pace of the peace negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track, Dr. Majali said some issues take a longer or shorter time, adding that this is the nature of talks. "It needs time and patience. We have the patience and are not in a hurry. Those who are in a hurry, usually stumble on the way, and we avoid rushing in order not to stumble," the prime minister said. Asked whether his meetings with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates leader Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan fall within the context of an Arab initiative to restore Arab solidarity, Dr. Majali said no such initiative exists now, adding that Jordan has always been extending its hands to its Arab brethren.

Cairo conference starts today:

Europeans working on document compromise

CAIRO (R) — European delegates on Sunday sought a compromise solution on abortion, the most controversial issue that has drawn the ire of Christian and Muslim clergy worldwide against a U.N. draft on the world's population growth. Nafis Sadik, head of the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development which opens in Cairo Monday, defended the forum against religious attacks, saying it was rooted on moral principles. "The controversy around one or two aspects of the programme of action threatens to obscure its main purpose," Ms. Sadik said. "In fact, the programme supports both religious precepts and worldly practice. It supports and seeks to strengthen the family... to strengthen the weakest members of the international community."

"It is a document based on moral grounds. It is not laying down the moral law, but it includes the moral dimension," Ms. Sadik told a news conference. Timothy Wirth, under-secretary for state for global affairs, said European-backed revisions to the U.N. draft on controlling population growth could elicit agreement this week. "The European Union has come up with a draft language which we think is very promising as a compromise... and I hope that other countries are looking very closely at that," added Mr. Wirth, whose country is a major financial contributor to family planning. He said the compromise to be put forward would help calm the religious and political storm aroused by the draft. Mr. Wirth gave no details. (Continued on page 7)

French police hold 11 Islamists

PARIS (AFP) — Some 11 Islamic fundamentalists were in custody in France on Sunday, suspected of supporting armed extremist organisations, notably in Algeria, judicial sources said. Over the past four days, French police around the country have questioned about thirty people in an attempt to break up fundamentalist networks thought to be supporting armed extremist movements. Top French terrorist judge, Jean-Louis Bruguiere, must decide Monday whether to charge the eleven. Mr. Bruguiere is also handling the prosecution in the current Carlos terrorist case. The nationwide sweep was launched shortly after 20 alleged supporters of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) were deported from France to Burkina Faso last Wednesday. However, police are officially linking the operation to another affair, the murder of two Spanish tourists in a hotel in Marrakesh, Morocco on August 24. The four suspects arrested by Moroccan police in connection with the attack were all French of either Algerian or Moroccan origin. All four come from the Paris suburbs where they have been convicted. French police found Islamic fundamentalist texts and a rubber stamp bearing the logo of the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the FIS's armed wing, during searches at the homes of two associates of the four. For its part, France's Journal de Dimanche newspaper said Sunday police were trying to locate a "training camp (...)" somewhere in the centre of France where young Islamic fundamentalists were being taught shooting and martial arts. Two of the suspects were taken into custody in Orleans, south of Paris.

Damascus wants peace — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Syria wants to press ahead to make peace with Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Sunday. "There is an accumulation of facts which show that Syria intends to press ahead," Mr. Rabin told the Yediot Aharanot newspaper. "The fact the Syria has not tried to hamper Jordan and the Palestinians, who are free to make progress in the negotiations, is proof of it," he said in the interview to mark the Jewish New Year, which begins at sundown Monday. The two neighbours are very close to a peace agreement, according to former defence minister Ariel Sharon. "Only a few minor points remain to be settled for an agreement," Mr. Sharon told the right-wing Likud Party on Saturday night. "As soon as an agreement is signed, the government is ready to withdraw the army from most of the Golan within one year and to deploy along the line of heights overlooking the Golan," Mr. Sharon said. "That line will also be banded over to the Syrians after an interim period." The reserve general said the outstanding points were Israel's demand for a five-year interim period while Syria wants only three years and the final line of withdrawal. "Damascus demands final withdrawal to the line before June 1967, the government is talking of withdrawal to the border during the British mandate which would leave two enclaves in our hands." They are an area near the source of the Banyas river in the north of the plateau and the Hammat Gader in the south, bordering Jordan. Mr. Sharon, who led the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, also said Israel would keep the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron closed until its fighters would exact painful revenge.

The complex has been shut since a Jewish settler murdered 29 Muslims there on February 25. Meanwhile, an opinion poll showed more than six out of 10 Israelis support at least a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for peace. State radio found that 27 per cent backed total withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in 1967 war. And 37 per cent favoured partial pullback. However 34 per cent were against handing back any part of the Golan to Syria. The remainder voiced no opinion. Mr. Rabin has pledged to hold a referendum before returning any substantial part of the heights, but peace talks have been stalled since the February mosque massacre in Hebron.

Ghazawi heads for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khaleed Ghazawi Sunday left for Cairo to head Jordan's delegation to the Cairo conference. Mr. Ghazawi's delegation includes representatives of government and non-government institutions. The minister, who also heads the National Population Commission, said that Jordan has received an invitation from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to attend a meeting that was slated to be held later Sunday in Cairo to coordinate the stands of OIC member states on issues to be discussed at the conference. He said Jordan's ambassador in Cairo was due to attend the meeting.

Egypt denies Sudan charges its forces attacked Halaib

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt on Sunday denied Sudanese allegations that Egyptian troops had launched an attack on a disputed border area and kidnapped a Sudanese officer. Defence ministry officials denied knowledge of the Sudanese claim but said Egypt was free to move any troops into its own territory. "Egypt is free to move troops into any of its territory. Halaib town is Egyptian and we have no troops there. But they can move in and out freely," one official said. He noted Sudan had made similar charges of border attacks in the past. "We are used to such lies from Sudanese government which it makes within a planned campaign against Egypt," he said. The foreign ministry declined any statement on the issue and one official said the presidency may issue a statement later. A Sudanese foreign ministry statement broadcast by Radio Sudan, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation on Saturday, said the Egyptian troops attacked the border town of Halaib with the intention of occupying it. The statement said that an Egyptian force crossed the border early Saturday and attacked the harbour in a "premeditated provocation." The Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum was called to the foreign ministry and demanded a protest in which Khartoum demanded an immediate withdrawal of Egyptian troops from Halaib and the release of the kidnapped officer, the ministry said. It claimed to have evidence of plans by Egyptian forces to occupy Halaib, the main town in the governorate of the same name, and cited movements of tanks, machinery and marine vessels around the town. Khartoum issued similar charges against Egypt in December 1992 complaining of an alleged Egyptian incursion into the area. Egypt denied the claim in a letter to the Security Council, and warned Khartoum of severe consequences in the event of a threat to its share of Nile water. The dispute over the area, which goes back some 30 years, has continued despite mediation efforts by Syria, Libya and Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat.

Hamas vows revenge

'Ibrahimi mosque to reopen Oct 12'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Hebron mosque where a Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinians last February will reopen on October 12 for 10 days to test new security arrangements, Israeli radio stations said on Sunday. The army spokesman's office said it was checking the report. The Tomb of the Patriarchs, holy to Muslims and Jews, has been closed since U.S.-born Baruch Goldstein opened fire on Arab worshippers on Feb. 25. Survivors beat him to death. Israeli military authorities have installed closed circuit television cameras and metal detectors to try to tighten security at the site, in the heart of the West Bank city of Hebron — a flashpoint of Arab-Israeli tensions. The PLO has said plans to split the worshipping area in two, effectively barring Arabs from the tomb of patriarch Abraham, would desecrate the holy site. In Beirut, Islamic militants accused Israel of trying to "Jewify" the shrine and said its fighters would exact painful revenge. The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said partitioning of the site, known to Arabs as the Ibrahimi Al Sharif mosque, by Israeli authorities since the massacre had left 55 per cent of its area under Jewish control, including two of the three altars of the prophets and most of the third. Hamas said the altar of Abraham, the nave, pulpit and the altar of Jacob and most of the third altar were now reserved for Jewish worshippers. "Muslims have been banned from entering those places except for two small areas," Hamas said in a communiqué faxed to an international news agency. "The response of our heroic people and our fighters will be definite and painful, and the price that Rabin and his soldiers will pay will be costly and heavy," Hamas said.

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has ordered work to start soon on one of the world's greatest mosques which may bear his name, the official news agency INA said Sunday. The mosque will be "one of the greatest sites of civilisation, among the most important achievements of the president's rule, and an architectural beauty in typical Baghdad style," said INA, monitored in Cyprus. President Saddam and members of the ruling Baath Party leadership examined a model of the mosque on Sunday when leaders suggested it should be named after the president, the agency said. "The expression God is Great will be written high on the minarets... to remind the world that the unjust blockade has failed to weaken the Iraqis' faith, and that on the contrary it strengthened it," it added. The agency was referring to the U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraq's secular regime began to emphasise Islamic values during the Gulf crisis, as the president sought Muslim backing against the U.S.-led multinational coalition.

Saddam to build 'greatest mosque'

Jordanian envoy accorded warm welcome in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Jordanian diplomat on a visit to Kuwait for the first time since the Gulf crisis said he was warmly received despite strains between the two countries over Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, newspapers reported on Sunday.

"I consider Kuwait my second homeland," Foreign Ministry counsellor Mashour Zaben was quoted as saying after talks with foreign ministry undersecretary Suleiman Al Shaheen.

"I felt that I am sitting among my family and friends," he said in remarks reported by Al Saeed and sister newspaper the English-language Arab Times.

Mr. Zaben, who was met at the airport by an official of the office of Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, is on a technical visit to inspect Jordan's embassy in Kuwait which has been closed since Iraq's 1990 invasion.

Ties between the two countries were strained following Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Kuwait withdrew its ambassador from Amman but diplomatic relations were not severed. Kuwait's embas-

sy in Amman is open and functioning under a charge d'affaires.

Over 250,000 Jordanians of Palestinian origin were among the 350,000 to 400,000 Palestinians forced to flee the emirate after the war.

Kuwaiti foreign ministry officials have described Mr. Zaben's visit as purely administrative.

They say officials make such visits every three or four months to pay the salaries of local non-diplomatic staff and to ensure the premises are in good repair. They would not say whether previous visits had been made by anyone as senior as Mr. Zaben.

Mr. Zaben was quoted as saying: "I hope there will be more official exchanges between Jordan and Kuwait in the future. Jordan is a country open to all Arabs."

"I will convey all the impressions and points of view of Kuwait to the Jordanian government to get a clearer vision of different issues."

Diplomats in Amman have said Jordan is expected to test its readiness to allow Jordan to reopen the embassy.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman



FIS edges closer to talks

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) appeared to be edging closer to talks with the military-backed authorities ahead of President Liamine Zeroual's second round of talks with the legal opposition Monday.

The independent centrist daily Liberté reported Saturday that senior adviser to Zeroual, General Mohamed Betchine, had met FIS leader Sheikh Ahasi Madani in jail in Blida, south of here, last Tuesday.

Mr. Madani, who was arrested in June 1991 and sentenced to 12 years in July 1992, raised the possibility of a ceasefire to the FIS's two-and-a-half year old campaign of violence against the government, the paper said.

There has been no official confirmation that the meeting took place.

An FIS spokesman in exile in Bonn, Rabah Kebir, said Saturday that Madani had for the first time written Mr. Zeroual a letter setting out pre-conditions for a truce.

Previous letters to Mr. Zeroual had come from Mr. Belhadj, the number two ally of Madani, who was also jailed for 12 years in July 1992, and had never mentioned a truce.

Mr. Madani repeated the pre-conditions that Belhadj had already set out:

- A return to the rule of law;
- the possibility for imprisoned and exiled FIS leaders to meet freely;
- an open approach to the conflict between the government and the militants, under the scrutiny of the press and public.

Mr. Kebir also confirmed to Zeroual, General Betchine had met Mr. Madani and other jailed FIS leaders last week.

Mr. Zeroual has insisted that before it can join talks, the FIS must renounce violence and halt a campaign that has cost some 15,000 lives since the government in January 1992 cancelled the second round of elections the FIS was poised to win.

The president resumed talks with five moderate opposition groups two weeks ago, but did not invite the FIS.

Efforts to secure a ceasefire have so far run up against vehement opposition from the ultra-radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which has rejected any ceasefire, dialogue or reconciliation with the existing authorities.

The FIS seems to hold no sway over the GIA, and its own armed wing, the Islamic Salvation Army, does not have much contact with the GIA.

At the end of last year, when he was defence minister, Mr. Zeroual met Mr. Madani and other FIS leaders in the military prison in Blida.

That meeting led to the release in February of two fundamentalist leaders, Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Boukhankham, who were given the task of contacting fundamentalist groups with a view to ending the violence.

Mr. Madani's letter to Mr. Zeroual was also reported in the London-based Saudi daily Al Shark Al Awsat, which reported that Mr. Madani had assured Mr. Zeroual he agreed with "non-negotiables" about the country's future.

Those were the rejection of violence, respect for the constitution and the republic, the enshrinement of Islam as the state religion, respect for individual and group rights and acceptance of multi-party democracy.

The FIS has consistently accused the government of violating those values, including the rejection of violence.

Mr. Zeroual has said it is up to the leadership of the FIS, which the government dissolved in April 1992, to publicly declare its commitment to the non-negotiable positions.

'Queen will not attend population conference'

CAIRO (AFP) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has cancelled plans to attend the U.N. population conference which opens here Monday, a Jordanian diplomat told AFP Sunday.

The diplomat dismissed the charge that Muslim fundamentalist pressure had prompted the Queen to cancel her trip saying that "it was impossible for her to come."

The Egyptian semi-official daily Al Ahram on Sunday said the Queen had cancelled her visit because of King Hussein's travel plans.

The couple are currently in London as part of a trip to Europe which has already taken them to France and Germany.

The diplomat, who asked not to be named, said Jordan "will participate with a very large delegation," headed by Jordan's Labour Minister

Khaled Al Ghazawi, and including parliamentarians and members of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

At least 15,000 people from 160 countries are here to attend the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development to discuss ways of slowing the international birth rate and boosting social conditions.

The conference, which lasts until Sept. 13, has already come under attack from both the Vatican and Muslim fundamentalists because they say its 20-point action plan violates religious ethics.

Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Lebanon and Iraq are boycotting the conference.

And Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her Turkish counterpart Tunc Ciller have also pulled

Iraq accuses neighbours of plotting against its unity

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq on Sunday accused neighbouring Syria, Iran and Turkey of backing Kurdish separatism in its northern regions.

The government daily newspaper Al Jumhuriya said "Syria, Iraq and Iran are acting against Iraq's unity by encouraging Kurdish groups in northern Iraq to break away," the Iraqi official news agency INA reported.

The report, monitored in Cyprus, branded as a "smoke screen" a recent statement by the three countries backing Iraqi unity.

The foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey and Iran said at a meeting last month in Damascus that they were "determined to fight any action aiming to divide Iraq."

but also called on Baghdad to stop persecuting the Kurds.

There are an estimated 25 million Kurds spread over Turkey (12 to 15 million), Iran (six to eight million), Iraq (four million) and Syria (one million).

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991 with the backing of the U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraq troops out of Kuwait.

Al Jumhuriya criticised Iraq's neighbours for "insisting on blaming Baghdad for the abnormal situation prevailing in the northern regions," where the Kurds ousted President Saddam Hussein's administration in April 1991.

Israeli population at 5.41m

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli population has climbed 2.3 per cent over the last 12 months to reach 5,410,000, the statistics announced Sunday.

Immigration of 75,000 people and a high birth rate among Arab-Israelis swelled the figures which break down into 81.1 per cent Jews, 14.2 per cent Muslims, three per cent Christians and 1.7 per cent Druze.

Israel counts the 150,000 Palestinians of annexed East Jerusalem and the 15,000 Druze on the Golan Heights, who have refused citizenship, in its population.

Rabin, Peres battle over Nobel peace prize

By Barry Parker
Agence France Presse

TEL AVIV — The 1994 Nobel peace prize has opened old hostilities between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who are campaigning for the award and against each other.

"The two are running intensive campaigns to try to win the peace prize," one minister told AFP. "Everything else has become secondary to winning the Nobel prize."

"They are both over 70 years old and in the twilight of their towering careers. Glory and a place in history is a huge motivation for the pair of them now," he said.

Mr. Rabin's bureau director and former journalist Eytan Haber is orchestrating the premier's bid, centred on the United States, the officials said.

And Uri Savir, foreign ministry director-general, is running the Peres campaign concentrating on Europe.

Everyone in Israel believes at least one of the two will get the award and both camps have approached numerous previous winners to back their claims.

The laureates will be announced on Oct. 14, fittingly enough in Oslo where secret talks between the PLO and Israel led to the Declaration of Principles for autonomy last September.

Shevah Weiss exercised his prerogative as Israeli parliament speaker to put forward Mr. Rabin's name. "I could not recommend more than one person," he said.

The precedent of the award to the late Israeli premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1979 does not augur well either.

In the cabinet, there is wide recognition of the key role Peres played in the breakthrough with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and in pushing Mr. Rabin into accepting a deal.

"The best thing would be for a joint prize. It would be a tragedy if Rabin gets it and not Peres," said another



Shimon Peres



Yitzhak Rabin

senior government official.

Mr. Rabin has reportedly told friends that Mr. Peres is obsessed with glory.

He was not pleased when Mr. Peres put out a book called "The New Middle East" in the middle of the process, fully praising his own role and ignoring others.

Another minister noted

that Mr. Rabin, despite his disclaimers, is not indifferent to glory and is well aware of his historic role. He was military chief of staff during Israel's stunning victory over the Arabs in the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Peres appeared to use all his diplomatic talent in a statement on the Nobel race.

"I am not looking for glory," he said.

"I prefer peace to a Nobel prize. If Rabin signs peace and wins the Nobel prize I will congratulate him."

But the minister, who asked not to be named, said: "The pair are obsessed by their place in history. The battle between them now is for the prime role."

The Maariv newspaper picked up on the story this week under the headline: "Nobel peace prize battle."

"The atmosphere is tense in the offices of Rabin and Peres," the daily said. "Sources close to Rabin said he wants the prize for himself."

"Peres's men are convinced the prime minister is doing everything he can to stop Peres. Rabin's men have thrown back the accusation."

The newspaper said hostilities began in November 1993, when a Rabin aide returned from overseas with news that Mr. Peres had already launched a campaign with letters of support from French President Francois Mitterrand and

British Prime Minister John Major.

In fact, Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin have reportedly been at war with each other for decades, marked by periodic truces.

It can be traced back to the mid-50's when Mr. Peres, as premier Ben Gurion's hitman, dismantled the Palmach military unit of which Mr. Rabin was a senior commander.

In 1979, Mr. Rabin accused Mr. Peres of subversion and megalomania in a book which the opposition used against the latter for years to come.

The vendetta has continued with the struggle for the Labour Party leadership and some analysts predict disastrous results if Mr. Peres is snubbed by the Nobel committee.

They shared a U.N. peace award with Arafat in July but Spain forgot Mr. Peres when it announced an international cooperation award on Friday.

Both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres have been nominated among 132 Nobel peace prize candidates, Maariv said.

Carlos faces judge today

PARIS (R) — Guerrilla mastermind "Carlos the Jackal" will face a judge Monday to be questioned in depth for the first time over a 1982 Paris bombing.

Carlos meets French anti-terrorism judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere, investigating his alleged involvement in the attack in central Paris which killed a pregnant woman and wounded 63 other people.

Lawyers for the Venezuelan-born guerrillas have repeatedly said he had nothing to do with the blast and was not in Paris at the time. "The police dossier is still empty," said Mourad Oussedik, one of Carlos's two lawyers.

The attack is the only one for which Carlos is formally under investigation in France, although probes into other attacks are being reopened. Carlos won a worldwide notoriety with a string of grisly attacks in the 1970s and 1980s.

Carlos has since the death La Sante jail since he met Mr. Bruguiere the day after he was spirited to France

from Sudan last month. At that first meeting, Mr. Bruguiere formally placed him under investigation for the Marbeuf street attack.

Carlos has said he will betray governments and other shadowy groups who backed his guerrilla campaign, mostly in Europe and the Middle East.

Carlos, an alias once used by the guerrilla whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, was sentenced in absentia to life in jail two years ago for killing two French security agents in 1975 and shooting them in the face point-blank range.

On Monday, Carlos's lawyers say they will also seek to have all legal action against him dropped after they filed suit on Friday alleging that he was illegally arrested and kidnapped from Sudan.

Mr. Oussedik told French newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche that Carlos might choose to be silent but asked about the Paris bombing, awaiting the outcome of Friday's suit.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

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17:00	Pif Et Hercule
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17:30	Musiques Sans Frontiere
18:30	News in French
18:45	The Weekly Sport Magazine
19:00	News in Hebrew
19:30	Black Beauty
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Home Free
21:10	A Galactic Odyssey
22:00	News in English
22:30	Matrix
PRAYER TIMES	
06:48	Fajr
06:08	(Sunrise)
12:35	Dhuhr
16:10	Asr
19:42	Maghreb
20:23	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	
St. Michael, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Agnes Church Tel. 630851	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Lutheran Church Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulleted supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with wide north-westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max. temp.	18 / 32

Agaba	
25 / 39	
Deposits	
26 / 35	
Jordan Valley	
24 / 38	
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 31, Agaba 38 Humidity	
readings: Amman 35 per cent,	
Agaba 25 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi	794787
Dr. Makhles Mazharah	820425
Dr. Khalil Jall	740740
Dr. Khalil Al Tashiq	757253
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	670053
Natrouh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yasoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeitani pharmacy	676660
Natrouh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili	273099
Akuds pharmacy	(---)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih	906130

Khalifeh pharmacy	
985417	
EMERGENCIES	
Food	
Civil Defence Department	
661111	
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	
630341	
Civil Defence Emergency	
199	
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade	
617101	
Blood Bank	
775121	
Highway Police	
843402	
Traffic Police	
896390	
Public Security Department	
630251	
Hotel Complaints	
605800	
Prison Complaints	
661176	
Water and Sewerage	
661176	
Complaints	
897467	
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	
787111	
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	
121	
Overseas Calls	
010230	
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	
623101	
Abd's Telephone Repairs	
661101	
Jordan Television	
773111	
Radio Jordan	
774111	
Water Authority	
680100	
Jordan Electricity Authority	
815615	
Electric Power	
Company	
636381	
RJ Flight Information	
08-53200	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	
08-53200	

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	642811/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	632562
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeitani	661711/4
Shmeitani Hospital	669151
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/5
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafich	775111/26
Army, Maraka	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	672540/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	1091833/3
Zarqa National Hospital	1091861/2
Ibn Sina Hospital	1091905/0
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	1091990/0
IRBID:	
Princess Beaza Hospital	1021725/5
Greek Catholic Hospital	1021727/5
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	1021741/00
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	1031511/1

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:00	Oman (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
10:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:15	Amsterdam, Montreal (RJ)
11:00	Dhahran (RJ)
11:40	New Delhi (RJ)
12:30	Dubai (RJ)
13:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:30	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
15:40	Sanaa (RJ)
06:25	Moscow (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
11:00	Khartoum (SO)
12:30	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00	Sanaa (YI)
17:00	Rome (AZ)
20:30	Cairo (MS)
21:30	Dubai (EM)
01:30	Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	

Will not attend conference

Her... has... the... of... a... AFP... the... had... to... that... it... to... come... semi-official... on Sunday... cancelled... of King... plans... currently in... of a trip... to already... France and... who asked... said Jordan... with a very... headed by... Minister

Trainers workshop opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister for Social Development Mohammad Sgour Sunday said planning of development projects in the Near East countries is vital to ensuring a better life, adding that most countries in the region are suffering from poverty, under-employment and over-exploitation of natural resources.

At least 15,000 people from 160 countries are here to attend the UN Population and Development Conference, which is discussing ways of slowing down the growth of the world population and boosting social and economic development.

The conference, which lasts until Sept. 13, is the first time since the end of the 1970s that so many people from Muslim fundamentalist countries have been invited to attend. The conference is also the first time that a world plan for the 21st century has been discussed.

Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Iraq have also pulled out of the conference. The Minister said the workshop is a time when the world is witnessing rapid political changes which demand that cooperation and coordination be explored at the regional and international levels.



Mohammad Sgour

rapid growth in the number of development projects, however, he added such projects were doomed to failure because of their high cost, and over-exploitation of natural resources and the environment.

The workshop is organized by the regional office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Regional Centre for Agriculture Reform and Rural Development in the Near East.

The course seeks to enhance the capacity of national and regional training centres. Taking part in the workshop are agricultural economists and planners from Jordan, Oman, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Cyprus.

Toddler accidentally kills teenage sister

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 16-year-old girl who was shot accidentally by her younger brother while he played with his uncle's gun died Saturday in Zarqa Government Hospital, according to Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

The uncle told police that he went to the victim's father's house to attend a wedding ceremony. He said he placed a gun he was carrying on the television set and went to another room.

Shortly after leaving, he added, he heard a gunshot and when he went to check the matter he saw the victim's four-year-old brother holding the gun in his hand and his sister was lying on the floor in a pool of blood.

Hospital sources said Sunday that the teenage girl, identified by police only as K.A.S., died in hospital the same day from a bullet to the chest.

In another incident Saturday, a 30-year-old man from the Jordan Valley was listed in critical condition after he accidentally shot himself, PSD reports said.

The victim's brother told police that his brother, Hatem, was cleaning a gun in the house when

Credit facility lends JD 9m to 3,504 farmers in 1994

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) granted JD 9 million in loans to 3,504 farmers from the start of 1994 to the end of August to finance 3037 agricultural schemes.

ACC Director General Mohammad Arabiyat said the projects included establishing poultry farms, purchasing of farm machinery and equipment, setting up farmhouses and the reclamation and development of agricultural lands in rain-fed and irrigated lands.

This year 65 per cent of the borrowers were first-time beneficiaries of the ACC loans, and most of them were small farmers, Mr. Arabiyat said.

The fact that more farmers are seeking ACC help for loans reflects the fact of liquidity among small farmers who took the brunt of the hardships resulting from the drought and other agricultural disasters in the past few years, said the ACC chief.

Explaining the nature of other difficulties facing the farmers, Mr. Arabiyat said that in the wake of the Gulf war, Jordanian farmers found problems in marketing their produce, prices collapsed on the local markets and the farmers suffered a severe blow.

The ACC has recently adopted a programme of granting loans to rural families, especially those with a woman as the head of the household, in order to boost women's contributions to rural development, said Mr. Arabiyat adding that since the start of this year, 748 families in the rural region have received combined loans totalling JD 1.2 million for their projects.

The ACC said Mr. Arabiyat, has been cooperating with the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) and has granted this fund a JD 1 million loan to be lent to the unemployed in the rural regions.

He said the main purpose of this scheme is to help curtail the migration of people from the rural to urban regions, noting that 180 unemployed persons have so far benefited from such loans.

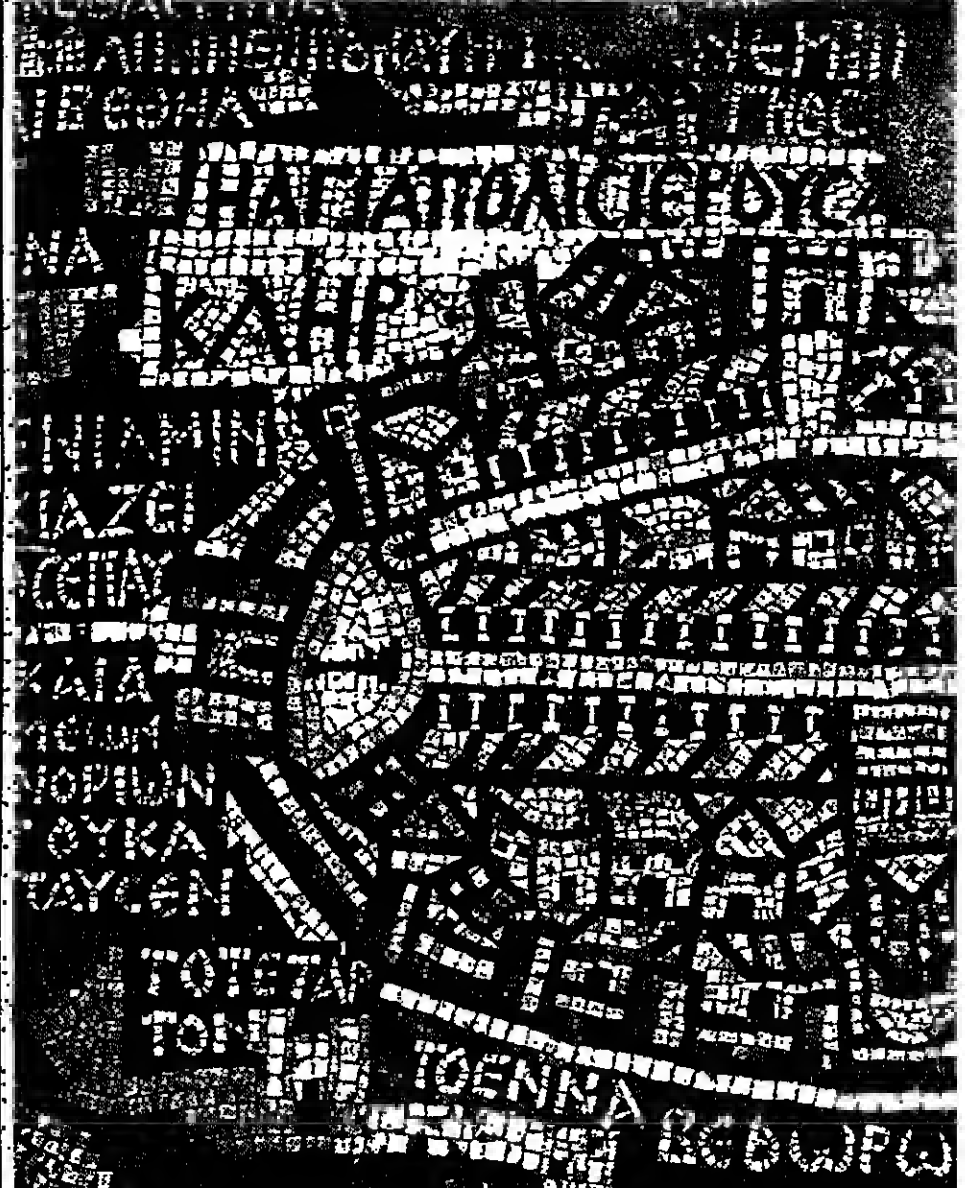
Mr. Arabiyat said that the ACC has decided to grant a JD 500,000 loan to the Agricultural Cooperative Organisation (ACO) to help it buy agricultural materials in bulk to be sold to the local farmers' unions at cost.

Referring to the ACC's endeavours to collect loan payments from farmers, Mr. Arabiyat said the ACC this year took in JD 7 million.

Earlier reports said that the farmers are indebted to the ACC by at least JD 35 million.

prisoners clash alestinian police

est Bank... 200... with... in Jericho... 3 tires... and y in protest... ions, offi... said Sun... took place... and con... te evening... Palestinians... d over the... from Israeli... they spend... in the... mous area... convicted of... alestinians... laborating... I when the... n their five... outskirts... ain police... trna, a wit... d shots in... developed... were... Amarna... is said... rised, but... sing near... cho, burni... blocking... is used by... lestinian



Section of the Byzantine mosaic floor map of the Holy Land is the earliest surviving map of the in Madaba's Church of St. George. The Holy Land and is dated back to around A.D. 560 (File photo)

UNRWA plans to promote status of women — official

AMMAN (J.T.) — Head of the Social Affairs and Relief Department at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Angela Williams Sunday said the agency was adopting a programme aimed at promoting the status of women among the Palestine refugees living in Jordan.

Speaking at a meeting with Asem Ghosheh, director of the Department of Palestine Affairs, Mrs. Williams said that by raising the status of women, UNRWA hopes to improve the general conditions inside the refugee camps.

UNRWA is also concentrating on vocational training to help the young men and women among the refugees find employment, said Mrs. Williams.

The total number of registered refugees living in 10 camps in Jordan now stands at about 240,000, and the Palestine refugees living in Jordan number nearly 1.15 million, according to UNRWA figures.

The agency runs 201 schools and vocational training centres for young men and women.

UNRWA provides education, health, relief and social services to more than 2.9 million Palestine refugees.

Mismanagement, contract breach end in lawn damage at Sports City — sources

By Khatab Salman

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The pest infestation which recently caused severe damage to the lawn of Al Hussein Sports City Stadium was the result of mismanagement and contract violations on the part of the company which was contracted to cultivate the new lawn, Ministry of Youth sources said.

The sources told the Jordan Times that the company, which executed the JD 159,000 contract of replacing the artificial lawn at the stadium with a natural one, had improperly conducted the job.

The sources, who preferred not to be identified, claimed that the contractors had failed to mix the soil with sand to facilitate water penetration, and that this "negligence" caused the irrigation and rain waters to pool in the soil causing it to decay.

They added that the sprinklers were not distributed proportionally. This, they said, led to patches of lawn receiving no water and eventually drying out and yellowing.

They claimed that the contract failed to include any guarantee or maintenance services to be performed by the company.

The company had mowed the lawn three times before handing over the responsibility of maintenance to the Ministry of Youth.

According to Sports City Manager Isam Aredah, no new drainage system was installed because the old British-designed system was good enough to drain surplus water even with a natural lawn.

Mr. Aredah added that the pest invasion was caused by natural wind and sun factors, and not by drainage problems.

The only thing wrong was that the Sports City officials allowed matches to take place on the newly-planted lawn before giving it a chance to establish stronger and deeper roots, he said.

He added that the damage done is not irreversible, and that repair works will begin late next spring when the football season is over.

He said that if the damage was total, the repair costs could amount to JD 20,000.

Director of Projects at the Ministry of Youth Khaleel Bilbeisi denied that the contract was exclusive of maintenance and guarantee clauses, saying that the contract was drafted in accordance with government regulations.

He said that the company agreed to conduct all necessary repair works as stated in the guarantee clause of the contract which runs till Dec. 20 this year.

Mr. Bilbeisi added, however, that the company and the Sports City administration have some differences regarding opening the stadium for sports activities. The company, he said, wanted the location to be closed immediately for repairs in order to minimise the damage.

Sports City and the Jordanian Football Federation, however, did not comply with the company's request and decided to postpone repairs till May 1995.

aces judge today

rilla mas... Jackal... today... depth... for a 1982... such anti... eas-Louis... pring his... in the... aris which... oman and... people... r the... guerrillas... he had the... blast... at the... dossier is... Mourad... Carlos's... only one... formally... tion in... oes into... e being... a string... the 1970s... the drab... he met... day after... France

Syrian writer endeavours to preserve Arab heritage

By Angham Tamimi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The history of a nation reveals its people's culture, traditions, language, architecture and all that is related to arts and writing — to destroy any of these landmarks, the whole history is destroyed, and forgotten.

There is an attempt to destroy the Arab ancient cities, and to segregate the new Arab generations from their culture and historical sites, Syrian writer and former member of the Council of Damascus Nadia Khost told the Jordan Times during her recent visit to Amman.

Dr. Khost, who studied literature at the University of Syria, and obtained her Ph.D. in Moscow, calls for protecting the Arab ancient cities from Western interference and influence.

Because of her four published books (I Love Sham, In 'Acca Jail, Something Else in the Heart, and No Place for the Stranger), studies and many articles, several ancient buildings in her country were saved from destruction.

Raised in an ancient Arab house in Souq Sarouja in Damascus, Dr. Khost was greatly influenced by the city's multitude of antiquities. Souq Sarouja was actually a quarter of the city where many thinkers, writers and painters emanated, such as the famous Syrian painter Tawfiq Tareq.

"Being born and raised there, I feel deeply rooted and wherever I travel, I always feel eager to return home," Dr. Khost told the Jordan Times.

Among Arab citizens, there is a kind of uncrystallised knowledge concerning the importance of the Arab legacy, said Dr. Khost.

Arab governments, she said, regard the historical sites as a means of collecting hard currency through tourism. For them, such sites have no other importance, she added.

So, being ignorant about "our history" simplifies imposing false information on it, and makes it easy to give it another identity, according to Dr. Khost.

In Jordan, there are several intruders who pretend to have found documents in order to prove that the Jews originally lived here. "I discovered this when I went to Madaba (south of Amman)."

"The guide there told us that Madaba was once the Jews' homeland, and that Canaanites just 'camped' there. He showed us on the map exactly where they lived.

This is certainly false information, but any foreigner would believe it."

Dr. Khost said this is ironic — that foreigners look for their roots in "our land, whereas we who have the roots try to demolish them."

Arab governments should take more care in employing tourist guides, she said. They should be well-chosen because they may play a major role in destroying our history," said Dr. Khost.

Moreover, "students are ignorant about their heritage," said Dr. Khost. They learn their own history as an abstract item. Homeland and its motives are mere words. The educational programmes look at history unemotionally. If our homeland and history had tongues, they would have talked about their beauty and aesthetic aspects."

"I am not an architect," said Dr. Khost, "but I am concerned about the influence of architecture on the human being, and the relationship between them."

Touring Europe for more than 11 years, Dr. Khost recognised the conversion from the modern city into the ancient one. "People in Europe are anxious to search for identity, and for their roots. I realised the beauty of my ancient city when I lived there. Unfortunately, when I came back to Damascus, Souq Sarouja was torn down," said Dr. Khost.

"As soon as I arrived from abroad, people living in ancient Damascus asked me to help stop the demolition of their city," said Dr. Khost.

"So I worked hard and discovered that the government's Koshar project was designed to pull down the whole city as part of a bigger plan to modernise the capital."

The international press spends efforts to help us forget our original identity. But identity without a person to carry it means nothing. So, there must be a person to protect this identity, said Dr. Khost.

The writer believes that historians and writers, as well as artists, can play a major role in restoring Arab heritage.

"Architects and engineers should not work by themselves, because they always consider the scientific side and forget the historical one," said Dr. Khost.

"With the help of several artists like the renowned actor Duraid Lahham, we managed to protect the ancient city of Damascus. But if all Arabs neglect such an essential issue, they will one day feel alienated at home."

National Library chief establishes technological section

By Cathy King

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The preservation of Jordanian heritage and culture is one of the major concerns of Ousama Mikdadi, the newly-appointed general director of the Jordanian National Library. As a result of his dedication to the library's restructuring and reorganising programme initiated in 1990, he has established a technological department that operates autonomously.

A department of national libraries and archives was established in 1977, but it was not until 1990 that the Ministry of Culture formed two directorates, one for the National Library and the other for the Archives and Documentations Department, on account of their increasing importance within the ministry.

It was then that Mr. Mikdadi, as the assistant general secretary of the Ministry of Culture, began his project of reorganisation.

The National Library is neither a public nor a lending library. Rather it provides information for researchers and government bodies.

In any given country there is only one national library and it is the official library of the state. Its responsibilities are therefore vast.

The Jordanian National Library's main aim is to collect and arrange national works and preserve them for future generations.

Books, magazines, newspapers, periodicals, government files, maps and photographs of the Royal Family and prominent members of the society are all stored within the library's walls, making precise classification and ease of accessibility a prime objective.

Within the last four years Mr. Mikdadi has installed a dual language (Arabic/English) computerised classification system, called MINISIS, to aid in locating information.

Acknowledging that we are in "the era of information and computers," Mr. Mikdadi has responded accordingly to match the needs of the people with a quick, efficient and accurate service.

He has extended the computerisation of the library to include an encyclopaedic style programme to answer questions at the touch of a button. Computerisation maximises storage space which is always a concern of librarians as they endeavour to attain as much information as possible for the development of the library.

There are two main ways to gather the information desired, which includes all written sources published in Jordan and all that is written about Jordan.

The first method ensures that a copy of any material produced in Jordan, whether written, artistic, technological or musical is deposited in the library.

By depositing the produced work, the creator is guaranteed the copyright; a right that cannot be attained by any other means in Jordan.

Mr. Mikdadi emphasised the importance of copyright laws, which protect individual and collective creativity, which he sees as a basic human right.

In Jordan a new copyright law was introduced on April 16, 1994 which "is one of the most modern laws in the world" of its kind, said Mr. Mikdadi. If not sufficiently protected, the creators are likely to suffer from imitation, which deters future efforts and in turn affects the development of national culture, Mr. Mikdadi added.

The procedure to deposit works with the library is easy and takes a matter of minutes. Mr. Mikdadi hopes that this will encourage people to avail of the service which is beneficial to all.

While Jordan is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), which mainly offers protection to industry, it has yet to become a member in the Berne Convention, an internationally recognised protector of literary and artistic works.

To gain membership, the Berne Convention stipulates that the country applying must have already implemented its own copyright law and that the duration of protection offered is not less than 50 years after the originator's death.

Currently, Jordan is unable to fulfil the second of the two prerequisites; the duration of posthumous protection being 30 years only.

Mr. Mikdadi aims to change this in the near future, so that Jordan becomes eligible for membership in the Berne Convention, but it will take time, he said, to obtain approval through the official channels.

The second method of collecting information is dependent upon a "gift and exchange" programme which operates between 140 institutions, mostly in the Middle East, with some worldwide as well. Libraries, universities, ministries of culture and cultural institutions all cooperate to expand their collections by informing one another of available literature, and through agreement the transactions are made.

The most recent addition to Mr. Mikdadi's list of collaborators is the U.S. Library of Congress.

The "gift and exchange" programme introduces Jordanian literature to other countries and people, which spreads knowledge about the region and limits misconceptions.

The Jordanian National Library not only sets the standards of the quality of information stored by other libraries in the country, but it provides training courses in various subjects important to library and documentation services.

Mr. Mikdadi continues to plan for the future development of the National Library. He has already received the budget for his latest scheme which will be the implementation of a bilingual imaging system known as CD-ROM.

By a process of scanning a document, the information can be transferred to a diskette. Each diskette can store 60,000 pages of information, which, when retrieved, can be read from the screen or printed, Mr. Mikdadi explained.

After the technology is installed early next year, the entirety of the archives will be filed in this manner. Once again, storage space of the National Library will be increased.

Mr. Mikdadi's dedication to the development of the Jordanian National Library, both technologically and culturally, substantiates his belief that it is a "treasure" to be shared and enjoyed by all.



Ousama Mikdadi

HIJAZ RAILWAY	
TRAIN	
Dep. Amman	8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES	
Apple	100
Banana	120
Banana (Mukammal)	130
Cabbage	80
Carrot	60
Cauliflower	90
Cucumber (large)	70
Cucumber (small)	60
Eggplant	80
Garlic	100
Onion	70
Lemon	110
Marrow (large)	100
Marrow (small)	90
Peas	80
Chickpea (dry)	100
Sweet Melon	110
Pepper (hot)	120
Pepper (sweet)	100
Potato	90
Potato (new)	110
Potato (old)	100
Tomato	100
String beans	110
Watermelon	120

LECTURE

- Lecture in Arabic entitled "New Solutions To Solve Sterility Problems of Men and Women" by Dr. Zeid Keilani at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

ANNUAL CONCERT

- Annual concert displaying Circassian folklore entitled "The Last Knight" by Al Jeel Al Jadid Club at the club's premises, Jabal Amman, 7th Circle at 8:30 p.m.

SEMINAR

- Seminar in Arabic entitled "Obliteration of Arab and Islamic Traces in Palestine" with the participation of Dr. Mohammad Saqr, and Mr. Ibrahim Ghosheh at the Professional Associations Complex at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'i, Talal Issa and Mahdi Al Assadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644451).
- Exhibition of photographs on nature and environment at the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature.
- Exhibition of Palestinian heritage at the Vocational Association Complex, Shmeisani.
- Exhibition of household items at the Amman International Motor Exhibition, Airport Road (Tel. 827408).
- Exhibition of paintings by selected Iraqi artists at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).
- Exhibition of Jordanian-made commodities at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).

Sarajevans hope the Pope will make their case

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — If Pope John Paul comes to Sarajevo on Thursday as planned, he will drive through shell-shattered neighbourhoods in a special armoured vehicle, past posters bearing his image and his words "you are not abandoned, we are with you."

That message delivered by the Pope last year, and the prospect that he could be visiting Sarajevo, have roused this predominantly Muslim city.

It is not that local religious leaders or ordinary Sarajevans believe the Pope can bring an end to 29 months of war. Most expect the fighting to intensify in coming months.

Instead, Sarajevans are hoping the Pope will make the case for their suffering with a clarity no visitor has so far managed.

"He comes to see the face of the modern world in which all moral principles have been broken — those of divine origin and those that are made by man," said Mustafa Cerić, Bosnia's senior Muslim cleric.

"What has happened in Bosnia is against all religions, all morals, all institutions, all order in the world. The Pope must speak to this problem."

Sarajevans have grown weary of celebrity visits from politicians, rock stars, intellectuals — what one local newspaper dismisses as "political and cultural safaris" by war tourists to the jungle of Bosnia.

Most who came seemed diminished by their exposure to the human and physical debris of this once-magnificent city.

Some gave stern advice, others offered sympathy rather than solutions. Most simply grew silent before the 10,000 people killed and 50,000 wounded here, most of them civilians.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali came in the first winter of war and told Sarajevans to stop complaining because he knew many places where people were worse off.

Joan Baez sang, Bianca Jagger wandered and Susan Sontag staged the Samuel Beckett play "Waiting for Godot."

British Prime Minister John Major found himself standing on the edge of town in an eerie no man's land of



Two Muslim women, refugees who among many others fled Velika Kladusa in western Bosnia two weeks ago, leave their make-shift shelter found in the ruins of Turanj, a suburb of the Croatian town of Karlovac, ravaged by the Serbo-Croatian war in 1991. Some 23 thousand people, mostly children, are desperately waiting for refuge in so called third countries (AFP photo)

abandoned, bullet-riddled buildings earlier this year, trying to make small-talk with soldiers in his security detail.

Sarajevo is expecting more, much more, from the Pope.

"The Pope is the only statesman, perhaps the only man in the world who can visit us and make a moral statement," said Lukša Soljan, a Roman Catholic Croat.

"It will be one of the major events of the war."

There is a conviction among Sarajevans, however open to question, that international political leaders have conspired to play down their sufferings, that hours of television pictures and reams of newspaper still have not alerted the world to the depth of this city's losses.

"All these politicians' statements lacked the stink and the smell of what has been done here," lamented

the danger, he is coming because of it. That is what makes his visit so important to Sarajevans no matter what their faith.

Pope John Paul's mere presence here could hardly fail to please.

But if he is to satisfy Sarajevo's expectations, the Pope must confirm that this city is more than just a frayed edge of Europe, that it is — as people here fervently believe — a vision of the future in a world where morality is a basis for statecraft and diplomacy has been abandoned.

Meanwhile, Saturday, the Pope said he fervently hoped to go to Sarajevo if security for the population is guaranteed during his visit.

Earlier, a spokesman for U.N. troops told Vatican Radio that U.N. forces are trying to get better security guarantees from all warring parties for the Pope's hoped-for visit on Thursday.

The Pope hopes to go to the war-ravaged city for the day, but the Vatican has said the trip might only be confirmed a couple of days before because of security problems.

John Paul's remarks during his customary recitation of the rosary Saturday night indicated the trip was still uncertain.

"I fervently hope, if there are sufficient guarantees given for the security of the population, to be able to go" to Sarajevo, "so tested and so dear to me, as a pilgrim of peace," the Italian news agency ANSA quoted him as saying during the prayer session at his summer residence outside Rome, in Castle Gandolfo.

The Vatican envoy in Sarajevo, Monsignor Francesco Montersilvi, discussed the trip in a meeting Saturday with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in the city of Pale, according to news reports. But there was no word if any progress had been made on security guarantees.

Vatican Radio earlier quoted Michael Williams, a spokesman for UNPROFOR, the U.N. forces, as calling Sarajevo's security situation always "fragile and tense." He added that U.N. forces could only guarantee security at the airport, "while in the city the Bosnian government is responsible, even

though the U.N. forces will work with the Bosnian authorities."

"Snipers are a great worry, and for this, the Pope, during his travelling, will have tightest surveillance," if the Pope goes, Mr. Williams said.

The Vatican says the Pope wants to say mass for the public in the city's indoor ice-skating arena, now a war-damaged leftover from the winter Olympics the city hosted in 1984.

U.N. officials Saturday also said gunfire has intensified around Sarajevo's Airport, killing at least two people and raising security concerns for the Pope's visit.

As the Vatican envoy met with Bosnian Serb leaders, who oppose the papal visit, a U.N. spokesman said security around the Bosnian capital was deteriorating.

"Yesterday it was obvious that the situation was tense around Sarajevo," Cmdr. Eric Chaperon told journalists Saturday. "We had quite a lot of incidents. It is not a very good sign."

He said one person was killed and two wounded by fire from a Serb anti-aircraft machine gun Friday on Mount Igman, which overlooks the airport, along the only remaining land route into the city.

A girl also was reported killed in the Hrasnica suburb near the airport, and shots were fired at a patrol of U.N. military observers. A French U.N. armoured personnel carrier came under small-arms fire near the airport.

Another 600 Muslim re-

fugees arrived Friday in the government-held town of Tuzla after having been forced from their homes. Many said they were robbed as they left.

"They arrived exhausted and weakened," said Lisa Jones, a Red Cross spokeswoman. "There were several very sick cases who had to be transported to Tuzla Hospital."

The U.N. Security Council issued a statement Friday condemning the Serb ethnic cleansing campaign. But the council also expressed concern about recent military actions and buildups by the Bosnian government army.

Bosnia's minority Serbs launched the war in April 1992 when they rebelled against a vote by the republic's Muslims and Croats to secede from Yugoslavia, which now is made up only of Serbia and Montenegro.

Armed and supplied by Serbia, they captured 70 per cent of the republic and declared their own state.

They are under pressure to accept a peace plan that would force them to give up a third of their holdings, leaving 51 per cent of Bosnia for a Croat-Muslim federation.

Bosnian Serb leaders have rejected the plan, even under pressure from Serbia. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, widely blamed for instigating the war, earlier this month cut economic ties with the Bosnian Serbs in a bid to get U.N. sanctions against his own country lifted.



A local Red Cross volunteer reads out messages to the crowd of refugees who fled Velika Kladusa in western Bosnia two weeks ago and are now stuck in

Turanj, a suburb of the Croatian town of Karlovac, hoping for refuge in western countries (AFP photo)

Kansai airport takes first flights

OSAKA, Japan (R) — First visitors to Japan's newest Kansai International Airport in Osaka were surprised by the spectacular terminal building, colourful opening events and, most of all, high taxes and prices to use its facilities.

The airport tax at the offshore airport, which opened for business on Sunday, stands at 2,600 yen (\$26).

"Expensive, very expensive," one Japanese male international traveller in his fifties said of the tax.

Kansai airport is Japan's second major international airport and the first to open in 16 years. Located off Osaka, the economic centre of western Japan, the country's first fully 24-hour airport also takes in domestic flights.

It has a single 3,500-metre runway on 511 hectares of land reclaimed on Osaka Bay.

The ultra-modern terminal building features a rolling, cloud-shaped roof designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, creator of the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris.

In contrast with the terminal, priests clad in long, white kimonos conducted a pre-dawn opening rite in the ancient style of Japan's indigenous Shinto religion.

The airport welcomed its first regular flight short-

ly after 6:00 a.m. (21:00 GMT Saturday), a Japan Airlines flight from Guam. Aboard, a Japanese couple held an in-flight wedding to coincide with the airport opening.

The airport will take in 339 international and 469 domestic flights a week initially. It aims to increase to 630 international and 490 domestic flights.

Some mishaps marred the first day of operations. Airport authorities said 20 passengers from the port city of Kobe missed their flights because the hydrofoil airport commuter boat they were taking broke down. Garbage found its way into the ship's engine, authorities said.

A computer glitch at an air traffic control centre in Tokorozawa, outside Tokyo, caused 19 flights from Kansai airport to delay departure by as much as about one hour, transport ministry officials said.

The airport cost a whopping 1.5 trillion yen (\$15 billion) to build and it is still costing more, including work to jack up the reclaimed land sinking at a rate of about 2.5 cm every 25 days.

The car toll to cross the bridge to the airport is 1,700 yen (\$17). A taxi ride from Osaka station in downtown Osaka costs ab-

out 19,000 yen (\$190). Food and drinks are just as expensive as elsewhere in Japan with a cup of coffee, for example, costing about 500 yen (\$5).

Landing fees for international flights stood at 2,400 yen (\$24) per tonne which is the same as that of the Tokyo International Airport at Narita, the most expensive airport in the world. Kansai International Airport Company (KIAC) initially wanted 2,640 yen (\$26.4) per tonne but met severe objections from international carriers.

The high landing fee and the prolonged global airline slump have slashed the number of flights to and from the airport. That will force KIAC to face larger initial losses than originally estimated and may delay its debt repayment plan, industry analysts said.

Despite all that, first airport visitors were happy. "The airport looks great. The interior's colourful and it is spacious," said a 26-year-old Japanese woman who was waiting for the first domestic flight to take off from Kansai.

"It does not look like an ordinary Japanese public facilities which always look grey and square," a Japanese Airline official said.

Between now and 2010, according to Mr. Blix, who cited a study by the organisation of economic cooperation and development, demand for electricity will increase by 75 per cent.

"Where will this electricity come from?" he asked.

At present 430 nuclear reactors are operating in 30 countries, providing 17 per cent of the world's power.

There are 55 reactors under construction, mostly in Asia and central Europe, in response to economic expansion there. But in western industrialised countries development of nuclear energy has levelled off markedly.

Aid agencies must ease tension in Rwanda — U.N.



A Rwandan woman is registered with her children at the Kahindo refugee camp, 40 km north from the Zairean town of Goma. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recently

opened this new camp for 60,000 people, better equipped than the other camps with water, roads and a hospital (AFP photo)

KIGALI (R) — A senior U.N. aid official said on Sunday the immediate emergency may be over in Rwanda, but ethnic hatred is still running high and aid agencies should work to ease tension in the Central African country.

"The war is still not over," Charles Petrie, deputy humanitarian coordinator of the U.N. Rwanda Emergency Office (UNREO), told Reuters. "The spirits have escaped Pandora's box and are out there."

The emergency may be over but there is still a crisis. Some people think because we are out of the emergency we are also out of the crisis. We are not — and we should now be working to ease tension."

Mr. Petrie said he did not think the low-level insecurity in Rwanda, now trying to recover from civil war and ethnic killings in which more than a million people are estimated to have died, would develop into mass con-

flict in the short term. But he said infiltration and sabotage by troops loyal to the ousted government could threaten stability.

The slaughter that followed the killing of President Juvenal Habyarimana in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6 led to an exodus of millions of refugees into neighbouring countries, mostly to teeming camps in Zaire, and an aid crisis.

Mr. Petrie identified seven "spirits" still bedevilling Rwanda — human rights, ethnic tension, land ownership, political uncertainty, lack of a bilateral ceasefire, hunger and disease.

In the short term, he said, the main effort should be to rehabilitate the countryside so that people were encouraged to return from refugee camps in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania.

The World Bank has granted \$20 million to U.N. agencies for infrastructure projects.

Donors should be encour-

aged to help in areas such as agriculture — the rainy season will soon start and the next crop must be planted over the coming weeks — as well as health and basic services such as power and water, Mr. Petrie said.

Vice President Paul Kagame has called on Rwandans to cooperate with the new government in combating crime committed by soldiers and others.

"I would like to remind people that everyone has a role to play in combatting the wrongdoings of soldiers and Rwandans in general," he said in a speech in the southern town of Butare broadcast on Rwandan Radio on Saturday.

"Some of my colleagues and I have heard from people that soldiers are committing offences — in many cases in conjunction with civilians... on other occasions, there is banditry. These acts are carried out by people in their personal capacity. We try to

rehabilitate these people whenever we get to know about these acts," Mr. Kagame said.

A group of aid agencies calling themselves concerned partners in assistance said in a document made available to Reuters: "Until some resolution is brought to the political and military elements of the situation in and around Rwanda, security will be tenuous."

And Thomas Gurner, relief coordinator of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told Reuters: "Though the worst of the instability is over, one must not forget the country has suffered almost 40 years of intermittent civil strife. Only an optimist would think everything has been solved."

"The past months created havoc throughout the country and hundreds of thousands can no longer cope on their own because of the aftermath of the war and the refugee movements."

Top official gave information to East German spy

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — A top adviser to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl knowingly provided information to an East German agent for more than 10 years, a court judge said Saturday.

Der Spiegel magazine's Waldemar Schreckenberger, a secretary and intelligence coordinator in the chancellery, met regularly in office with then West German journalist Felix-Erik Laue, who is suspected of spying for the Stasi intelligence service for 12,000 marks (\$7,500 annually). No one available Saturday at a federal prosecutor's office confirmed the report.

Spiegel said most of the information Mr. Laue obtained from Schreckenberger was with confidential East German policies and military matters.

At one point Stasi officials wanted to pressure Schreckenberger to expose a private relationship between him and Mr. Laue, threatening to commit him to the state security and the state security became aware of the journalist's Stasi ties, Der Spiegel said. Excerpts from the report that is to appear in magazine's Monday edition were provided early to news media. Since unveiled in October 1990, federal prosecutors have opened hundreds of investigations against suspected East German spies, much of the information coming from Stasi files confiscated after the fall of Berlin Wall.

'Clinton's approval rating drops'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans don't think the way President Clinton is doing his job, a new poll shows. The Time magazine Cable News Network released Saturday, shows 50 per cent of adult Americans disapprove of Mr. Clinton's work in the White House.

per cent approve and 50 per cent disapprove. Mr. Clinton's disapproval rating is highest among the 30 Time CNN surveys taken since he has been in office. Two before, in May and June 1993, his disapproval rating was 50 per cent. The president's lowest approval rating was 50 per cent, also came in May 1993 survey. The numbers for the Aug. 31 survey are slightly worse than the president's rating in the same poll two weeks ago when 47 per cent disapproved and 44 per cent approved and are similar to results polls taken by other organisations in recent weeks. The newest poll is based on a survey of 1,000 people. The sampling error plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Prominent Greek painter dead at 87

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Nikos Hadjikiakos-Ghikas, one of Greece's most prominent modern painters, died Saturday. He was 87 and had been in ill health over the few years.

Hadjikiakos-Ghikas studied in Athens before leaving for France in 1922 where he was strongly influenced by the cubist and impressionist painters. He returned to Greece in 1934 and combined these influences with Greek traditional motifs and mythology, with scenery and light of Greece.

He was a member of a prominent and influential group of artists in the 1930s that included the poets George Seferis and Odysseus Elytis, both of whom later won Nobel Prize for Literature.

Hadjikiakos-Ghikas held personal exhibitions abroad and his work was featured in a museum of his work which was inaugurated in Athens in 1991. His work was exhibited in museums of modern art in Paris, London and New York. He was appointed a professor of architecture at Athens Polytechnic college in 1991. His teaching, painting and writing in an avant-garde review called To Telo (the third eye) was a strong influence on younger Greek architects and painters.

Athens Mega Channel television aid 1300 Hadjikiakos-Ghikas died at home in Athens in the company of his wife, Barbara Hutchinson. His funeral was to be held at the First Athens Cemetery on Tuesday.

IAEA opens nuclear energy conference

VIENNA (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) begins a four-day conference here on Monday to debate the future of nuclear power as a source of energy.

The gathering comes amid public anxiety over nuclear energy, prompted by recent reports of plutonium smuggling and lingering fears left over from the 1986 accident at Chernobyl power plant in the former Soviet Union.

"The challenge for nuclear industry is to maintain and improve the technical and economic performance of nuclear power while enhancing even further its safety and en-

vironmental credentials," IAEA director Hans Blix said.

Delegates here — who will not adopt formal resolutions — will evaluate new types of reactors, such as the European pressurised water reactor being readied for commercial service in 2005 by French and German engineers.

Participants at the conference — which marks the 40th anniversary of the world's first civilian nuclear power station at Obninsk in Russia — are also to discuss measures to reduce investment costs in order to make nuclear power more competitive in relation to coal and gas as a source of energy.

Between now and 2010, according to Mr. Blix, who cited a study by the organisation of economic cooperation and development, demand for electricity will increase by 75 per cent.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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quake rocks Chile. leaves no injury

CHILE (AP) — A powerful earthquake in Chile on Sunday left no injuries and caused only minor damage to buildings and infrastructure.

The quake, which lasted about 10 seconds, was felt throughout the country, but the most intense shaking was in the central region.

There were no reports of casualties or major damage to buildings or infrastructure.

The quake was caused by a rupture along a fault line in the central region of Chile.

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World News

NEWS IN BRIEF

Top official information East German

HAMBURG (AP) — A top East German official, known for his role in the fall of the Berlin Wall, was reported to have been killed in a car crash on Saturday. The official, who was a member of the East German Politburo, was driving a car that was involved in a collision with a truck. The crash occurred on a highway near the city of Hamburg. The official's death was reported by several news agencies, including the Associated Press and the Reuters. The official was a prominent figure in East German politics and was known for his role in the peaceful revolution of 1989. His death was a significant loss to the East German government.

Prosecutor calls for legislative solution

ROME (AP) — The Milan prosecutor whose "clean hands" kickback probes disgraced an entire political class on Saturday told business leaders that Italy needs a "legislative solution" to avoid future corruption problems. The prosecutor, Antonio Di Pietro, said that the current legal system is inadequate to deal with the widespread corruption in Italy. He called for a comprehensive reform of the legal system, including the creation of a new body to investigate and prosecute corruption. Di Pietro's statement came in the wake of the recent revelations about the kickback payments made by politicians and businessmen. He emphasized that the government must take decisive action to restore public trust and ensure the integrity of the political system.

Guerrillas, British still wary on IRA ceasefire

BELFAST (R) — The IRA and British government circled one another warily on Sunday with London saying it was not ready to accept a ceasefire by the guerrillas as permanent and the IRA saying it planned to hold onto its weapons. The IRA's stance was based on the belief that a permanent ceasefire would leave them vulnerable to British military action. They argued that they needed to maintain their armed status to protect their interests and the interests of the Irish people. The British government, on the other hand, was cautious about accepting a ceasefire without clear evidence of the IRA's commitment to peace. It emphasized the need for a negotiated settlement that would address the underlying issues of the conflict. The situation in Belfast remained tense, with both sides showing signs of wariness.

Marcel hangs over latest Cuban exodus



Cuban refugees fill the deck of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Matinicus before being transferred to a naval vessel en route to the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. U.S. soldiers in Panama began setting up

facilities for up to 10,000 Cuban refugees who could begin arriving from Guantanamo Bay as early as Sept. 5 (AFP photo)

MIAMI (AP) — From teeming, sun-baked tent cities at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, to the streets of Miami, to the White House, the latest Cuban exodus has become a major political issue. The exodus, which has been ongoing for several years, has resulted in the arrival of thousands of Cuban refugees in the United States. The Cuban government has accused the United States of interfering in its internal affairs and of supporting the exodus. The United States, on the other hand, has argued that the refugees are fleeing political persecution and that the United States has a moral obligation to provide them with asylum. The situation has become increasingly complex, with both sides making strong claims and the international community watching closely.

scared and angered residents. Mr. Clinton took the surprise step two weeks ago of ordering that Cubans be intercepted at sea and taken to Guantanamo, where they are being detained indefinitely. "I believe that most Cuban-Americans want us to be very firm," Mr. Clinton said. "They remember how awful it was for the United States when a Mariel boatlift occurred." Indeed, the current exodus had been largely limited to rafts and makeshift boats. Mr. Castro left the door open for exiles to bring boats to Cuba, but failed to stir another boatlift. Meanwhile, with the crisis still unresolved, Cubans at Guantanamo are painfully aware that their fates are tied to Mariel memories. "We are not Marielitos. We want Americans to recognize that we are nice people, we are ready to cooperate, we are really grateful," said Jorge Martinez, who had been a university professor in Havana. "During the Mariel boatlift, a lot of scum and criminals were sent to the states, but we have doctors, nurses, technicians, engineers, lawyers." Added 29-year-old Jorge Luis Milanes, who had been a journalist for the Cuban state youth newspaper, Juventud Rebelde: "These are dissidents. This is really not a Mariel." Meanwhile, American soldiers scrambled Saturday to set up a camp outside Panama City for up to 10,000 Cuban refugees who could begin arriving as early as Monday from the overcrowded U.S. navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The sprawl of tents going up on a jumble-covered bluff overlooking the Panama Canal will be the first facility for detained Cubans outside the United States or Cuba. A steady stream of trucks carried tents, gravel, wooden sleeping platforms and drinking water Saturday to the camp site. More than 28,000 Cubans have tried to flee across the 144-kilometer Florida Straits into the past month, most on flimsy rafts. Cuban President Fidel Castro has let them go, apparently hoping to force the United States to reverse its economic embargo of the island. The Coast Guard is intercepting the rafts and taking them to camps at Guantanamo, already home to thousands of Haitian refugees. The United States has asked nations in the Caribbean region to help shelter the Cuban refugees. On Friday, the U.S. Southern Command said 2,000 Haitians from Guantanamo would be flown to a camp in Suriname in South America. Panama said Friday it will sign an agreement this weekend with the United States to accept as many as 10,000 Cubans for up to six months. The Cubans will start arriving there Monday, according to a Panamanian official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Trucks carrying tonnes of gravel and supplies of drinking water, American soldiers in mottled fatigues, and military police moved in and out of the camp past a military roadblock Saturday. The camp, based on the Empire Range Complex, a U.S. military-controlled tract 11 kilometres east of Panama City, is to consist of four sub-camps each handling 2,000 detainees who will be assigned tents by family, health condition and gender, said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The rafters are to arrive at the Howard Air Base outside Panama City, where they will be given medical checkups and ID bracelets, the official said. The official said religious activities and classes in child care would be available at the camp.

Clinton's approval rating drops

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans don't know how the president's approval rating has dropped. The Time magazine survey found that Clinton's approval rating has fallen from 67 percent in May to 50 percent in August. The survey also found that Clinton's disapproval rating has risen from 28 percent to 47 percent. The drop in approval rating is a significant concern for Clinton, as it indicates a loss of public confidence in his administration. The survey also found that Clinton's approval rating is lower among African Americans than it is among white Americans. This suggests that there may be racial tensions or issues that are affecting Clinton's popularity. The survey was conducted by Time magazine and is one of the most widely cited polls in the United States.

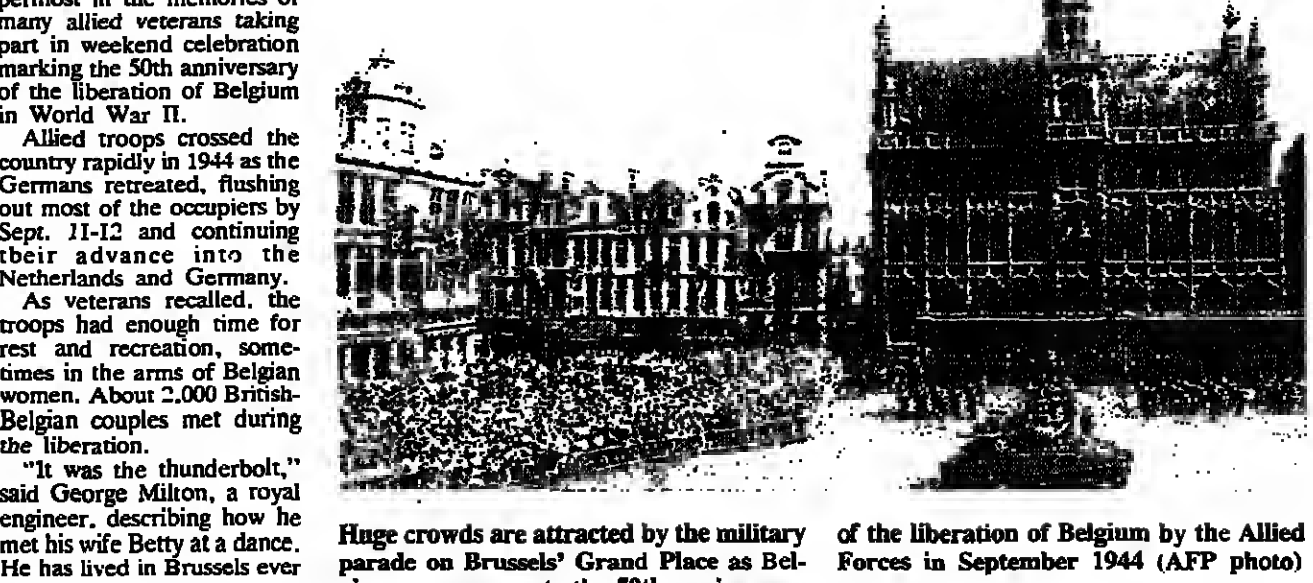
Tamil rebels ready for talks with the government

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The commander of the Tamil Tigers has accepted the new socialist government's offer for unconditional peace talks to end the 11-year East German conflict in Sri Lanka, his aide said Saturday. A much of the informal government minister said these talks could start "within a coming from Stasi file, a few weeks or a few months." In his response to the fished after the fall of the government's offer for talks, rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran said in a statement that his group "is ready for a ceasefire and unconditional peace talks." Mr. Prabhakaran's statement was read out by his aide, Anton Balasinghe, at a ceremony in northern Sri Lanka where 10 policemen were released by the rebels after four years in their captivity. Sri Lanka's junior minister for defence, Anuruddha Ratwatte, told reporters that things can move faster now. "We can't lay down a time frame for peace talks but we hope that these talks can start within a few weeks or a doing his job, a new government will consider freeing of shows. The time magazine survey found that Clinton's approval rating has fallen from 67 percent in May to 50 percent in August. The survey also found that Clinton's disapproval rating has risen from 28 percent to 47 percent. The drop in approval rating is a significant concern for Clinton, as it indicates a loss of public confidence in his administration. The survey also found that Clinton's approval rating is lower among African Americans than it is among white Americans. This suggests that there may be racial tensions or issues that are affecting Clinton's popularity. The survey was conducted by Time magazine and is one of the most widely cited polls in the United States.

Albania-Greece tension mounts as trial nears end

TIRANA (R) — Albania and Greece appear set for a serious collision this week unless diplomatic intervention by the United States and Russia can defuse a mounting crisis between the Balkan neighbours. Despite strong warnings from Greece to drop the case, an Albanian court is due to issue verdicts on Wednesday on five ethnic Greeks accused of spying for Athens. The trial has sparked one of the fiercest feuds in the recent history of stormy relations between Tirana and Athens. Since it began on Aug. 13, Greece has accelerated the expulsion of illegal Albanian immigrants, beefed up border controls to stop them from returning and blocked European Union aid to Albania, Europe's poorest country. About 40,000 have been expelled in the past three weeks. An envoy of U.S. President Bill Clinton said Albanian President Sali Berisha at the weekend for private talks, following Clinton letters to both sides urging dialogue. There was no official word from Tirana on what passed between Mr. Berisha and Mr. Clinton's special advisor on central and Eastern Europe, Richard Shifter. A rumour that Mr. Shifter asked for the case to be dropped and the five set free could not be confirmed. He later travelled to Athens to see Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias. A statement from Mr. Berisha's office, issued on Sunday, said: "President Clinton agrees with President Berisha that it is in the interests of Albania, Greece and the world in general to avert a major crisis in such a critical region as the Balkans." Greece suggested Mr. Clinton was putting pressure on Tirana to drop the case. "The letter mentions the special interest the United States has in the trial in Tirana and in respect for human rights," a Greek government statement said. "The government consid-

Belgian veterans recall war romances



Huge crowds are attracted by the military parade on Brussels' Grand Place as Belgians commemorate the 50th anniversary

of the liberation of Belgium by the Allied Forces in September 1944 (AFP photo)

BRUSSELS (R) — Romance, not combat, was uppermost in the memories of many allied veterans taking part in weekend celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Belgium in World War II. Allied troops crossed the country rapidly in 1944 as the Germans retreated, flushing out most of the occupiers by Sept. 11-12 and continuing their advance into the Netherlands and Germany. As veterans recalled, the troops had enough time for rest and recreation, sometimes in the arms of Belgian women. About 2,000 British-Belgian couples met during the liberation. "It was the thunderbolt," said George Milton, a royal engineer, describing how he met his wife Betty at a dance. He has lived in Brussels ever since. British, U.S. and Canadian veterans returned to Belgium for celebrations to mark the anniversary of Belgium's liberation from four years of Nazi occupation. Allied and Belgian veterans paraded in Brussels, Antwerp and other Belgian towns during the weekend. On Sunday, King Albert laid a wreath at the monument to the Unknown Soldier in Brussels and throughout Belgium church bells were rung and flowers laid at war memorials and military cemeteries. Canadian army veteran Tom Hunter described the rapturous welcome given to the liberating troops. There was also a girl. "But that is the past, it is

all over now," he said on Belgian Television, smiling at the memory. An October 1944 drawing by British newspaper cartoonist Carl Giles, a war correspondent for Express newspapers in northern Europe from 1943-45, depicts the companion of a soldier being hugged by girls saying: "Your missus would give you 'vive la Belgique' if she was to come round the corner." The main feature of the poster advertising the celebrations in Brussels is of an embracing couple. Jack Burgin, 78, who was a gun sergeant in the Royal Horse Artillery, was posted for the night on the steps of the Brussels Stock Exchange.

Prominent Greek painter dead

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Nikos Hadjikyriakos, one of Greece's most prominent modern painters, died Saturday. He was 88 and had been in ill health for several years. Hadjikyriakos studied in Athens and then in Paris, where he was influenced by the cubist movement. He is known for his use of bold colors and geometric shapes. His work often depicted scenes of everyday life in Greece. He was a member of the Greek avant-garde movement and was one of the leading artists of his generation. His death was a significant loss to the Greek art world.

Poll shows Higuchi supporters outstrip Fujimori's

LIMA (AFP) — Support for Susana Higuchi has outstripped support for her estranged husband President Alberto Fujimori in a poll of Lima residents released Saturday. Some 53 per cent of the Lima residents surveyed supported Ms. Higuchi while 39 per cent favoured her husband in a poll conducted by the firm Apoyo. The couple is waging a bitter, high-profile marital dispute with potential political implications. The poll asked residents if they supported Fujimori's Aug. 2 announcement that he was stripping his wife of the honorary title and duties of "first lady." Mr. Fujimori made the announcement during a nationally televised speech accusing his wife of 20 years of "disloyalty, blackmail and intimidation." Ms. Higuchi has publicly criticised Mr. Fujimori's policies and accused members of his government of corruption. The latest round in the conflict came Friday when Ms. Higuchi filed a court motion accusing Mr. Fujimori of using "psychological and moral violence publicly" against her. Ms. Higuchi claimed Mr. Fujimori has blocked her from seeing her four children since Aug. 3 when the scandal broke out, citing his action as evidence that typifies "conjugal violence."

Light quake rocks Chile, leaves no injury or damage

SANTIAGO (AFP) — A light earthquake shook Santiago and other parts of central Chile Saturday but authorities reported no injuries or damage. The quake hit the capital at 5:53 p.m. (21:53 GMT) with a magnitude of three on the Mercalli scale, according to the Seismological Service of the University of Chile. The Mercalli scale runs from one to 12, with one indicating that very few people felt the quake and 12 suggesting heavy damage. The earthquake was located near La Calera, some 70 kilometres west from here.

Mine disaster leaves 24 dead

MOSCOW (AP) — Twenty-four coal miners died in a mining disaster Saturday in the Donbass basin in eastern Ukraine, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Sunday. The cause of the disaster at a mine in the Lugansk region was not immediately clear. The agency did not indicate if any of the miners were injured. Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Dyuba headed a government inquiry team which arrived at the scene Sunday, ITAR-TASS added.

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Battle for nuclear soul

WHEN EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Amr Musa proposed to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during his visit last week to Israel to make the Middle East a nuclear free zone, by signing and ratifying the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Mr. Rabin's response went beyond all expectations. In fact, what Mr. Rabin did not say was more significant, and more ominous, than what he told the Egyptian minister.

True, it is a long-standing Israeli policy not to adhere to the NPT for a variety of reasons. But what marks a dangerous departure from the previous Israeli position on nuclear weapons is the refusal of the Israeli government to reiterate an equally long-standing pledge that "Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East." Both Mr. Rabin and his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, also linked Israeli arms control policies to the stances of the entire region comprising not only the Arab countries but also Iran and perhaps Pakistan.

This change for the worse by Israel, at a time when the multilateral talks on disarmament are considered the cornerstone of the whole peace process, appears to be a prelude to an Israeli admission of an open secret that it has nuclear bombs. With dangers of mass destruction weapons looming large on the horizon, there is every reason to fear that the entire peace effort stands to be undermined. The Egyptian foreign minister had in mind to commit his government to the Chemical Warfare Convention Treaty (CWC) in return for an Israeli ratification of the NPT. This quid pro quo proposal was obviously turned down by Israel as more and more signs point to the unequivocal Israeli position to develop and possess nuclear bombs no matter what the Arab side offers in return.

Linking the Israeli overall posture on mass destruction weapons to the positions of all the countries in the region, including states that are situated on the fringes of the region, makes it loud and clear that Israel is committed to stay nuclear at all times. Even when Libya, Iran and Iraq are effectively included in any regional disarmament formula, Israel would surely try to find additional excuses to stay away from the NPT club.

The Israeli rationale would pose a challenge to the Arab states in the area, whether to continue to abide by the NPT and the CWC treaties on long-term bases or do what is necessary in the light of the proliferation of mass destruction arsenals in the region, including the renouncing of these commitments. We think the multilateral talks on disarmament in the Middle East need to look afresh on this issue with a view to consolidating the peace process on bases that would ensure the safety and security of all the states in the region without any one of them feeling the need to develop or buy its own mass destruction weapons.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday criticised the U.N.-sponsored world population conference opening in Cairo Monday, saying that the Western orchestrated conference gives economic growth priority over the human rights. Opponents to the conference rightly believe that humans are more worthy than material things and that life is a divine gift that should not be treated lightly, said the paper. Though the opponents bear the responsibility for not presenting alternative ideas aimed at curtailing population growth and saving the world from further difficulties, one cannot accept the ideas of the U.S.-led Western nations, which are being imposed on the poorer nations of the world, it added. The conference for the population crisis in the South are coming from the North, which have been explaining the world's natural resources, said the paper. The worst thing about the conference is that the countries of the Third World are threatened of losing economic assistance should they refuse to comply with the conference's resolutions, which means, said the paper, that the United States and other Western powers are trying to shirk their responsibilities of backing Third World nations drive towards achieving socio-economic development.

LANA MAMKEGH, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, criticised poor families who have up to 10 children and expect the government to find solutions for their problems. Citing the example of a taxi driver whose salary is JD 100 and who has 10 children, the writer said such people have no right to their nation because they only think of their own families and neglect the community in which they live and the government to find solutions for their problems. Noting that such families never plan ahead, the writer said that the government has its own plans and cannot allow matters to get out of hand by confusing its programmes for the sake of satisfying the selfish desires of individuals who have no regard for their country and countrymen.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Al Gore: Reinventing the vice presidency

U.S. VICE PRESIDENT Al Gore's trip to Cairo to attend the World Population Conference casts an international light on his increasingly important role in the Clinton administration.

Due to a serious leg injury (which has the vice president walking on crutches and his entire leg in a cast), Mr. Gore's trip has been severely scaled back. The trip was to have been one of the most extensive and far-reaching foreign trips by a U.S. vice president. It would have taken him to Cairo, Berlin, then to Israel, Jericho, Jordan and possibly also to Saudi Arabia. The multiple venues of the proposed trip would have provided the vice president with important opportunities to advance a number of key U.S. foreign policy objectives.

In Berlin, Mr. Gore was to have been present at the final departure of U.S. troops from that non-united city. The Israel, Jericho and Jordan visits were to have focused on continued U.S. support for the peace process. In Jericho, the vice president was to have announced the first U.S. private sector investment projects in the West Bank and Gaza. These nine projects are anticipated to bring over \$230 million in direct investment and to create over 5,000 new jobs. They were facilitated by Builders for Peace (BFP), a U.S. private sector initiative. Mr. Gore himself, with the support and encouragement of President Bill Clinton, was instrumental in the process of launching BFP, an Arab-American-Jewish-American cooperative effort designed to bring tangible benefits of peace to the Palestinian people.

While doctors had advised the vice president against making the trip at all (due to the severity of his injury), Mr. Gore's commitment to the conference and his personal commitment to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to visit Cairo resulted in the more limited schedule he will follow. A White House spokesperson said that the vice president is extremely disappointed that the remainder of the trip has been postponed. Mr. Gore is tentatively set to announce the BFP projects for the West Bank and Gaza before his return from Cairo.

At the population conference, Mr. Gore will continue to work towards an international compromise and consensus on key issues. He will also emphasise the U.S. administration's belief that it is not only possible but essential for political leadership to build ties and develop partnerships with religious leadership worldwide that will enable them to work together towards common goals. Mr. Gore's own personal commitment to dialogue with Islam and his deep respect for Islam has been made clear in the past. In June of this year, Mr. Gore spoke at the Islamic Centre Mosque in Washington, DC. The vice president was the first administration leader to visit the mosque since President Eisenhower visited in 1957. In his remarks, Mr. Gore said:

"We are neighbours. Literally. My house is only a few minutes' walk from this stunningly beautiful mosque. The wonderful thing about neighbourhoods is that — when people live next to each other, have meals together, root for each other's children on the neighbourhood soccer field — differences melt away, and the common concerns and common ties of life bind us together."

"...As we begin this new year, I offer my hope for people in this country and for people around the world. It is the hope for peace... a word which is derived from the same root as Islam itself. It is the message preached by all the great religions of the world. It is a message no one can ignore, whether on a hillside outside Sarajevo, a street in Gaza — or in a Washington neighbourhood."

Despite the severe scaling back of the trip, what is clear is that Mr. Gore's far-reaching involvement in foreign affairs and domestic affairs makes his vice presidency unique and worth examining. U.S. vice presidents traditionally play a silent partner role under the presidents they serve. They are usually chosen for reasons of electoral politics. Presidential candidates typically select a vice president running mate who will add regional, generational or ideological diversity to their campaign. So it was that the young eastern liberal John Kennedy selected the older and more conservative Texan Lyndon Johnson, or that conservative California Ronald Reagan chose a more moderate Texan (albeit with Eastern roots) like George Bush. The major criteria used in the normal vice presidential selection process is finding a person who will bring new constituencies and electoral votes to a presidential campaign.



Al Gore: A different kind of a vice president

Once elected, vice presidents are rarely given a very visible role and virtually never a leading policy role. They perform ceremonial functions, attend state funerals and raise money. On occasion vice presidents have been called upon to attack the president's enemies or defend his policies — that is, they give speeches that their presidents would prefer not to give themselves.

In every instance, Mr. Gore has been a different kind of vice president. From the day of his selection by Bill Clinton, the political analysts were startled by the radically different path laid out for the vice president by then Democratic candidate Clinton. The young moderate southern governor Clinton chose the moderate and equally young southern Senator Al Gore.

Mr. Gore was considered to be strong on national security and defence issues, a committed environmentalist, and a devoted family man. These were the very issues that defined the "New Democrat" (i.e., not the traditional "liberal Democrat") campaign that had brought Mr. Clinton to victory in the Democratic primary. Since these were also the issues on which the Republicans were set to attack Mr. Clinton, some analysts saw that the selection of Al Gore not only added to the Democratic ticket but also reinforced Mr. Clinton's commitment as a "New Democrat."

But the conventional political wisdom was that the selection of Mr. Gore, while intriguing, was not politically smart because it didn't meet the traditional criteria. The analysts were proven wrong.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore and their wives campaigned together as a team and projected a positive image of compatible and dynamic youthful crusaders. It seems clear that a genuine friendship has developed between the two men and their wives. They translated their youth and their partnership into the winning theme of a new generation inspiring hope for change.

With their election in November 1992, the political analysts suggested once again that Clinton would behave traditionally. They believed that he would feel threatened by his vice president, and would therefore reduce his role from full partner in the campaign to the traditional junior partner role of vice president. And once again, the analysts were proven wrong. In many ways Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore have continued to function as a governing team. And increasingly Mr. Gore has been given high-profile assignments by the president, which have further enhanced his role in the administration.

There is, as one White House aide describes it, "an intense working partnership between the president and the vice president." It is the access Mr. Gore has to Mr. Clinton and the president's respect for his vice president that enables Mr. Gore to play the role that he does. They meet regularly, and Mr. Gore and his national security adviser participate in the daily White House national security briefings.

Other Democratic Party leaders note that the credit for Mr. Gore's high-profile role belongs to Bill Clinton. Former Senator Gary Hart, for example, notes "Al Gore is a star in this administration in virtually everything he's involved in. I think a great deal of credit for the authority he has goes to the president... I think most presidents, for reasons of their own insecurity, do not want a true operating vice president. I think it's a tribute to Mr. Clinton that he is not concerned about that."

Richard Moe, a former aide to then-vice president Walter Mondale, has observed that Mr. Gore "has clearly developed a relationship with the president that has allowed him to be involved in every major decision making process." And Mr. Moe believes that the selection of Mr. Gore was "a reinforcement of what Clinton was all about... So they are in sync, they really understand each other. They can relate to each other well."

As a result of the positive relationship and the fact that Mr. Clinton is comfortable with Mr. Gore playing a major and visible role, Mr. Gore has been assigned to work on a number of key administration priorities. Early on in his administration, Bill Clinton got embroiled in an intense controversy over his support for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). But what made this controversy more dangerous for the White House than many others was the involvement of Ross Perot in the campaign against the agreement. Mr. Perot tried to mobilise his political forces (which, it must be remembered, gave Mr. Perot nearly 20 million votes in 1992) against NAFTA, and bought extensive television advertising time to take his anti-NAFTA message directly to the American people. The administration realised they had to counter Mr. Perot's

message quickly and effectively.

Al Gore volunteered to debate Mr. Perot on NAFTA on national television. Initially, White House strategists were hesitant to put Mr. Gore on stage with Mr. Perot out of fear that Mr. Perot's folksy style and sharp tongue would put the vice president at a disadvantage (even Mr. Gore is well-known for telling jokes about his "stiff" public persona). But with Mr. Gore gaining ground, Mr. Gore was given the task of taking on Mr. Perot in a one-on-one debate — and the move was stunningly successful. Political analysts felt that Mr. Gore could win the debate even while losing because the expectations for his performance were so low, but in fact nearly all analysts agreed that Mr. Gore outperformed Mr. Perot and easily won the debate. And, of course, Congress did eventually ratify NAFTA.

Another of Mr. Gore's high-profile assignments was a project known as the National Performance Review (NPR). The impetus behind the initiative — eliminating waste in the federal government and cutting out inefficiencies — was not new; but cutting the size of government was a traditionally Republican issue, and so the effort became a part of the effort to enhance the administration's "New Democrat" image. But Mr. Gore's effort went beyond simply identifying and eliminating waste. It focused on improving the coordination between the federal government with local and state governments, and allowing local and state governments the flexibility to tailor programmes to the needs of their citizens rather than to federal regulations. As a report on the NPR concludes, its "recommendations are not just about cutting wasteful spending, they are also about creating a government that works better."

Yet another of Mr. Gore's responsibilities is to oversee the administration efforts regarding the Information Superhighway, more commonly known as the Internet — an informal network of academic, military and commercial networks which now spans the globe. The small part of that task for Mr. Gore has been overseeing the administration's entry onto that "superhighway," and White House speeches and documents as well as documents from many federal agencies are now available on the Internet. But his primary responsibility is encouraging increased cooperation between the groups that form the Internet and developing standards both domestically and abroad for handling the exponential growth that the Internet has been and will continue to experience. The administration's overall policy goal in this area is to increase the ease of international communication and facilitate international trade.

Mr. Gore has also been assigned by the president to co-chair, with the Russian prime minister, the U.S.-Russian bilateral commission that oversees inter-agency cooperation between the two countries. The commission has been a channel for significant discussion on issues of common concern such as the exploration of space, the environment, trade and nuclear disarmament.

In many ways, a by-product of the Clinton-Gore relationship is the very reinventing of the role of the vice president in government. As a result of the significant role Mr. Gore is playing in the Clinton administration, the selection of future vice presidential nominees will be more carefully scrutinised and future vice president will be expected to play equally substantial roles in their administrations.

As for Mr. Gore himself, a great deal more can be expected. He is, of course, committed to the reelection of Bill Clinton in 1996. But 14 past vice presidents have ultimately been elected president, and Mr. Gore clearly has the ambition to become the 15th.

Human Rights File

By Waleed Sadi

Depoliticising human rights efforts

WE ALL recognise that the United Nations Human Rights system is doing "something" about human rights as evidenced by the several human rights instruments that were articulated and adopted by it and the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to promote and protect human rights across the world. Yet a closer look at the work of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the main U.N. organ on human rights and the activities of its subsidiary organ, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, would reveal that there is still a great deal to be desired in the performances of the human rights system of the U.N. The first major hurdle facing the U.N.'s efforts in these domains is the composition of the central bodies that adopt the international standards on human rights and supervise the adherence of the international community to them.

It is a sad fact of life that the memberships of both the commission and its auxiliary body, the sub-commission, suggest that the pursuit of human rights issues cannot be objective or neutral but rather subjective and highly politicised. In the process, the conduct of the U.N. in human rights subjects becomes necessarily compromised and lacking the kind of credibility that most of us would normally insist on. A fast glance at the make up of these two major human rights bodies would reveal that the human rights record of some of the member states, are not of the kind that would qualify them to be the human rights standard-setting countries or the credible and the neutral "judges" of state behaviour in human rights matters.

Judging by my own personal experience, several governments seek membership in such bodies not necessarily out of concern for human rights but rather to have a platform to defend their own human rights record or to launch attacks on their political enemies. No wonder competition for membership in these bodies is so fierce.

The problem is less acute with regard to treaty bodies such as the Human Rights Committee on Civil and Political Rights or the Committee on Racial Discrimination. Here, only states which have ratified the pertinent human rights convention are qualified for membership. Since they are treaty obligated to respect and observe the relevant human rights instrument, they are by and large more mindful of the need to adhere to its provisions. This must not give false illusions about the extent of any such adherence, since many of the human rights "exports" from state parties continue to interpret the articles of their conventions in a manner that satisfies the peculiar national interests and perspectives of their countries.

To me, this membership problem related mainly to the U.N. human rights bodies and partially to human rights treaty bodies is the central issue that continues to weaken the international human rights system and undermine its credibility and viability. Something drastic needs to be done to rectify that major shortcoming before much can be expected from the international efforts to promote and protect human rights worldwide. Without this, the international human rights efforts would remain suspect and lacking. Imagine that judges courts of law are elected on the same current basis on which memberships in U.N. human rights organs or treaty bodies are conducted. This is the real crisis facing human rights globally and regionally.

To be sure there are many state memberships in U.N. human rights and expert memberships in treaty bodies which are beyond reproach. I personally would give the highest marks to Scandinavian countries whose memberships whether in U.N. organs or treaty bodies are indeed credible and objective to the maximum possible extent. The other Western countries memberships are close second. Latin American, Africa and Asia, follow suit in the order of objectivity and neutrality. A thorough review of existing methods for manning human rights bodies is therefore urgently called for in order to succeed in elevating human rights endeavours to the level that most of us would wish them to attain.

Obviously there is no ideal way to obtain the desired goal. Since the United Nations itself is by nature a highly politicised organisation, it stands to reason that its organs remain essentially politicised. There are existing efforts to depoliticise human rights endeavours, but little progress has been achieved so far. If and when the U.N. creates a U.N. Human Rights Court, as repeatedly proposed, it may then be possible to have at least one central international human rights body which is as neutral and objective as the International Court of Justice. Yet before this aspiration can be realised, the U.N. member states themselves must decide to make their international organisation's human rights pursuits a bit more fair and just.

LETTERS

Library out of reach

To the Editor:

AS a frequent visitor to the American Library at the time when its location was at the Third Circle, I would like to remind all those who think that the library staff are supposed to be American nationals that they are mistaken because it was not always a nice experience to approach Americans for tasks that are extremely well done by Jordanian nationals.

Reference to E. Yaghi's article (Jordan Times, Aug. 25-26). Borrowing a book or asking about a periodical doesn't necessarily require a master degree in phonetics or dialects. And not every American who used to work at the library holds a PhD.

I also feel obliged to criticise the American Embassy for relocating the library, which was at the Third Circle. Not all Jordanians have private cars, and most of eastern Amman residents are no longer able to pay a short working visit to the library because its location is not always easy to reach. I hope I may one day buy a car so that I may have another chance to see what the library looks like!

Khadar Al Atrash,
Amman.

Criticism called for

To the Editor:

I AM writing in support of E. Yaghi's article (Jordan Times Aug. 25-26). I have read her articles over the years and have always enjoyed them. I especially was in support of her article regarding the U.S. embassy. I have been to the American Embassy several times and can associate very closely with what E. Yaghi was saying. I hope that the non-appearance of her Thursday column was not due to what she wrote. It would be tragic if it were. For we all feel that we have some sort of freedom of press. I would like to believe that this was not due to her article.

Minnie Ipek,
Amman.

Editor's note: The non-appearance of E. Yaghi's article last Thursday had nothing to do with her Aug. 25 article. Ms. Yaghi's weekly columns which had lasted more than any other in the paper's history, would hopefully reappear in the future. The Jordan Times also likes to remind its readers that letters cannot be published unless they have the full name(s) and address(es) of the writer(s). Names can be withheld upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space or clarity. The newspaper will not return letters that are not published.

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Human Rights File

Criticising human rights efforts

By Waleed Sadi

Use that the United Nations Human Rights Commission is "something" about human rights and several human rights instruments are adopted by it and the efforts of the Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, the work of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the main U.N. organ on human rights, its subsidiary organ, the Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, at that there is still a great to be desired of the human rights system of the U.N. facing the U.N.'s efforts in the promotion of the central bodies that set standards on human rights and supervise the international community to the life that the memberships of both its subsidiary body, the sub-commission on human rights issues cannot pursue but rather subjective and highly process, the conduct of the U.N. subjects becomes necessarily compromised. A fast glance at the make up of the rights bodies would reveal that the kind of credibility that most of us would qualify them to be the human rights countries or the credible and the new behaviour in human rights matters own personal experience, several governments in such bodies not necessarily a human rights but rather to have a platform own human rights record or to have political enemies. No wonder competitors in these bodies is so fierce.

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A brutal minority could be destroying Nigeria

By Wole Soyinka

LONDON — There was once a thriving habitation of some half a million people in southeastern Nigeria, the land of the Ogoni. It is an oil-producing area that suffered much ecological damage. That damage has received world publicity largely due to the efforts of a passionate writer called Ken Saro-Wiwa, himself an Ogoni.

A leader of the Movement for the Salvation of the Ogoni People, he exposed the plight of Ogoni to the U.N. Minorities Council, calling for the recognition of the Ogoni people as one of the world's endangered minorities. He agitated for compensation for damaged crops, polluted fishing ponds and the general destruction of what was once an organic economic existence of his people.

That was some two or three years ago. Now Ken Saro-Wiwa is held in chains in a hidden prison, incommunicado. He is seriously ill with a heart condition and is totally at the mercy of a gloating sadist, a self-avowed killer and torturer of the military species, specially selected for the "pacification" of Ogoniland.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa's people have taken to the forests and mangrove swamps to survive. Those who remain in townships and villages are subjected to displacement, expropriation of their property, violence and rape. Ogoniland has been declared a "military zone."

One ongoing act of repression very easily obscures another; it is a pattern that dictatorship exploit most effectively. For the majority of Nigerians, Ogoni is only some localised problem, remote from the immediate, overall mission of rooting out the military from Nigerian politics, rescuing the nation's wealth from its incontinent hands, and terminating its routine murders of innocent citizens on the streets of more visible centres of opposition.

The massacres in Ogoniland are hidden, ill-reported. Those that obtain the just publicity of horror are those that are attributed to the Ogoni leadership.

The accounts of such events, and careful investigations, lead to more than mere suspicion of dirty tricks to incite ethnic animosity and then bloodletting between the Ogoni and their neighbours.

The ambush of a passenger boat whose occupants were machine-gunned to death bore all the professional sophistication of a military operation, while the massacre of four Ogoni leaders by supposed Ogoni militant youths has raised serious questions about the identity of the instigators. It serves the purposes of General Sani Abacha's government, however, to portray the Ogoni leadership as a bloodthirsty lot. It justifies the saturation of Ogoniland with military killer



A Rwandan mother gives her child a drink of water at the Kashusha camp in Zaire (AFP photo)

The misery lingers on
Rwandan refugees settle into new camp

By Thalia Griffiths
Reuters

GOMA, Zaire — Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire began settling into a new camp north of Goma on Saturday despite Zairean hopes that they will return home soon.

Truckloads of refugees arriving at Kahindo from the biggest camp, Kibumba, are registered, given a health check, then taken on into the camp to be allotted 10 square metres per family of roughly cleared scrub and rock to build their new homes.

"It's nicer here than Kibumba, it's calmer. There were a lot of bandits down there," said community leader Godefroid Ruhengamanzi. "But our biggest worry here is not having enough plastic sheeting. We need shelter from the sun and the rain."

The terrain at Kahindo, about 40 km north of Goma, is no more hospitable than anywhere else in the region. Refugees construct shelters of branches, straw and plastic sheeting as best they can on the hard, black volcanic rock.

Zaire's Justice Minister Kamanda Wa Kamanda said on Thursday it was Zaire's wish that the refugees should return home by the end of the month.

The Hutu refugees say they would like to go home too, but only once they can be sure they do not face reprisals from the Tutsi-led Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) for massacres of Tutsis and moderate Hutus after the assassination of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6.

The United Nations, trying to reassure panicked refugees who heard radio reports of Kamanda's speech, emphasises all repatriation must be absolutely voluntary.

Mr. Ruhengamanzi listened wide-eyed to a reporter's description of farmers in the fields and produce in the markets seen on a trip into northern Rwanda on Friday, far from the tales of an abandoned country populated only by bloodthirsty Tutsis which circulate among the refugees.

"What we are really afraid of is that the RPF will kill us," he said finally.

"I think we'll be here for some time yet," said Vincent Lizinjirabake, a photographer from Kigali.

Families allotted their space put down bundles of cooking pots, water containers and sleeping mats and immediately set to work clearing brush and lighting a fire.

"The site is not ideal but it's a much better atmosphere than in Kibumba, where things are very tense," said one Red Cross worker.

The vast, chaotic sprawl of Kibumba camp, which bouses up to 350,000 refugees, contrasts sharply with the tranquil surrounding landscape of volcanic hills and tropical forest.

There are daily reports of lynchings in the camps by Hutu vigilantes attacking anyone suspected of wanting to return to Rwanda.

"They accuse those thinking of leaving of taking sides with the RPF, which won the civil war and has formed the new government in Kigali."

The move to Kahindo began on Thursday. The U.N. says about 1,700 people moved on each of the first two days to the new site, which has space for up to 60,000 refugees with medical facilities and water supplies.

So far only 20 communes of Kigali have said they are prepared to move but they hope others will join once the operation gets under way.

The existing camps in Goma sprung up when a million people flooded across the border in three days in July, fleeing from advancing RPF forces.

The lakeside town of 200,000 people has been completely swamped by the influx and Kamanda said on Thursday one Zairean had died of disease for every 10 Rwandans.

Improving condition for the refugees is all the more urgent with the rainy season due to start in earnest in the next few days, turning the camps into seas of mud and bringing a resurgence of disease.

Nuclear experts to tackle industry's image problem

By Douglas Hamilton
Reuters

VIENNA — Nuclear energy experts gather in Vienna this week to discuss the future of an industry whose dark side is never far from the headlines and whose benefits are often taken for granted.

A brief but predictable flurry of alarm over a fire at a nuclear plant in Russia last week was just the latest, small cloud on the horizon of what advocates insist is a safe, reliable source of cheap, clean energy.

The spectre of the spread of nuclear weapons, careless dumping of almost everlasting toxic waste, an underground trade in radioactive fuel and above all the lingering fear of "another Chernobyl" are among the perceived drawbacks dogging this 20th century industry.

The four-day conference on "The Nuclear Power Option," organised by the 120-member International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will focus on how to further improve safety, increase public acceptance and boost economic performance.

The IAEA was set up by the United Nations in 1957 to promote and oversee the industry and curb the spread of the bomb. About 200 experts from 40 countries are attending the Vienna conference.

Nuclear power, born with a big bang just 40 years ago, produces 17 per cent of the world's electricity. In 10 years, this is expected to rise to up to 20 per cent.

Reactors cost 25 to 50 per cent more to build than traditional coal- or oil-fired plants but can operate up to 40 per cent more cheaply, without sulphur dioxide emissions.

In 1993, 430 nuclear plants were operating worldwide and 55 were under construction in 32 countries.

But stark contrasts remain.

France meets 78 per cent of its power needs from the atom. Austria, host to the IAEA, has forsown nuclear energy altogether on environmental and safety grounds and intercedes vigorously with neighbours planning reactors near its borders.

IAEA Director-General Hans Blix, in a speech in June, said the nuclear industry's main challenge now that the cold war was over was to improve economic performance and safety.

"Our think-tanks are no longer concentrating on how best to maintain the prospect of a mutually-assured destruction... They can now focus on how to develop our economic, social, political and cultural systems," Mr. Blix said.

In regions where electricity needs are expected to grow quickly, such as Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, the nuclear option is attractive.

Indonesia and Thailand are close to opting for atomic power. China plans to expand its modest nuclear base.

Japan's socialists accept premier's pragmatic platform

By Paul Eckert
Reuters

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama won a big victory this week when his Socialist Party voted to sweep away decades of outdated left-wing policies in favour of a pragmatic programme.

The party's approval for a sharp right turn in the Socialist platform means Mr. Murayama faces no immediate threats to his two-month-old tenure as premier.

"I will strive to make this administration a full-fledged stable government, not merely a transitional coalition," Mr. Murayama told his party.

Nearly two-thirds of 384 delegates to the Socialist convention approved Mr. Murayama's call to discard the party's pacifist positions on defence and nationalism, including opposition to the country's national anthem and flag, armed forces and security treaty with the United States.

Mr. Murayama strongly defended as being in the national interest the Socialists' coalition last June with their historic foe, the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

He said the tactic, which put a Socialist in the premier's office for the first time in over four decades, restored stability and international credibility to Japan's topsy-turvy politics.

The mood at the convention was one of resigned acceptance that their party of protest must change, mixed with anger at the Socialists' giving up their role as Japan's conscience.

Those who can't fully understand the Socialist Party's new policy developments say the party has lost its reason to exist," said Mr. Murayama. "But that will never happen."

Mr. Murayama received a taste of grassroots opposition when on arrival at the convention he was confronted by about 200 peace and environmental activists, beating drums and carrying placards saying: "Don't sell out the party."

Even before the pragmatic platform was approved, Shizuo Wada, a left-leaning former party vice-chairman, quit the party in protest at the changes.

Mr. Murayama tried to assuage opponents by assuring them that party's aims remained the same.

He credited the party's pacifist platform with blocking past conservative governments' ambitious rearmament aims.

"But with the collapse of the cold war framework, the era in which ideological disputes controlled the world has ended," said Mr. Murayama.

The premier argued that the Socialists' new role is to turn the party's pacifist ideals into practical policies on issues such as disarmament and trimming defence spending.

Although Mr. Murayama prevailed at the convention and looks set to stay in office well into next year, serious questions remain over whether his Socialists can maintain enough support to remain a viable political force.

"By recognising the self-defence forces and the Japan-U.S. security treaty, the Socialists have thrown away their ideals and their identity," said Cosay Tsutsumi, a Buddhist monk.

Even among Mr. Murayama's supporters there is scepticism that the Socialists can maintain a separate identity while working with the long-ruling conservative LDP.

"The coalition with the LDP is a plot to defraud citizens," said Toshihisa Shibusawa, a right-leaning former senior party official who resigned from the party this week.

A first test of the Socialist-LDP alliance will come at a bye-election in Aichi prefecture on Sept. 11 in which a ruling coalition-backed candidate squares off against a candidate fielded by the opposition.

Akira Yamagishi, chairman of Rengo, an umbrella group of Japan's largest labour unions, expressed full support for the revised policy platform but remained cold towards the coalition.

"Rengo will continue to fight the LDP," he warned, noting that his union, traditionally a Socialist supporter, is neutral in the Aichi contest.

LETTERS
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to the American Library at the time at the Third Circle. I would like to think that the library staff are always a nice experience to approach that are extremely well done by

Yaghi's article (Jordan Times, Aug. 1) book or asking about a periodical require a master degree in phonetics or try American who used to work at the

to criticise the American Embassy for y, which was at the Third Circle, have private cars, and most of eastern no longer able to pay a short working case its location is not always easy to one day buy a car so that I may have ee what the library looks like!

Khader Al Atrash, Amman.

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Minnie Ipek, Amman.

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Economies of OAPC states grow 2.6% in '93 despite lower oil income

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The economy of key Arab oil producing countries grew by 2.6 per cent in 1993 despite lower oil earnings and poor performance in embargo-hit Iraq, according to an official Arab report.

The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the 10-nation Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPC) stood at \$402 billion in real terms in 1993 compared with \$392 billion in 1992, OAPC said in its annual 1993 report, obtained here Sunday.

In the past five years, the real GDP averaged 2.2 per cent annually, slower than the population growth, the report said, adding this led to a deterioration in the per capita income in some members states.

Excluding Iraq, the GDP of the remaining members grew by as fast as 4.9 per cent in 1993, which is considered high in international standards, it said.

"This improvement, which follows a deterioration in early 1980s, is due to the success of economic reforms in member states and policies aimed at offsetting the adverse effects of the world oil market on their economies, rationalising expenditure and diversifying income sources," it said.

A graphic breakdown showed the GDP of Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil exporter and producer, accounted for nearly one third of the total GDP of OAPC states, standing at around \$130 billion.

Algeria's was estimated at \$80 billion, Egypt's at \$75 billion, Kuwait's at \$18 billion, Libya's at \$25 billion and the United Arab Emirates' at \$35 billion.

Iraq's GDP was below \$20 billion, a fraction of its level before the United Nations punished it with sweeping sanctions for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The remaining members are Bahrain, Syria, and Qatar. Tunisia was included in the breakdown although its membership was frozen at its own request five years ago because of financial difficulties.

Most Arab states have launched reforms to tackle their economic problems, mainly accumulating debt, unemployment and inflation, low exports and investment. Such problems worsened in the second half of 1980s, when a decline in crude prices forced Gulf oil producers to slash aid to poor members.

"There is no doubt that a continuation in the reform programmes will provide a firm base for a better economic performance in the coming years given the large resources of member states and their growing capability to cushion the impact of oil price shocks," the Kuwait-based OAPC said.

The report showed the organisation's oil revenues dropped by 4.4 per cent to \$92 billion from around \$96 billion in 1992. It attributed the decline to a 10 per cent fall in oil prices to \$16.33 from \$18.44.

Kuwait was the only exception, with its earnings jumping by 53 per cent to around \$10 billion due to the rehabilitation of its energy sector badly damaged by the Iraqi invasion.

A breakdown showed Saudi Arabia's income stood at \$44 billion while the UAE's was estimated at \$14 billion. Libya's at \$10 billion and Algeria's at \$13 billion. Iraq's earnings were estimated at less than \$2 billion compared with \$15 billion in 1989.

OAPC produces nearly one fifth of the world's total crude output and its reserves exceed 60 per cent of the world's proven reserves of around one trillion barrels.

Calls for a two-speed Europe split Italy government

ROME (R) — Calls by Germany's Christian Democrats for a two-speed Europe that would shove Italy into second division, has split the government as economists told the prime minister to take more control of state finances.

Foreign Minister Antonio Martino said the Christian Democrats' (CDU) proposal that a hard core of five European Union (EU) countries with strong economies move faster towards political and economic union was unacceptable and divisive.

"If the ideas expressed in the CDU's proposal were put into practice, we would eventually risk a break-up of Europe, which would be completely unacceptable," he told reporters at an economic conference in northern Italy.

A foreign ministry source said that Italy fully understood some countries were worried about postponing economic union, but that it did not justify segregation.

The CDU's proposal, contained in a paper by its parliamentary leader Wolfgang Schäuble, said a hard core consisting of Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg should be allowed to move faster towards union.

On Friday, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel dismissed the calls and government spokesman Dieter Vogel said Chancellor Kohl had not formed a final opinion.

Italy's Budget Minister Giancarlo Pagliarini, also taking part in the conference in Cernobbio, said he thought the CDU was right.

"If I were a German, I'd be saying the same thing," he said. "Italy is like an airplane that is falling and the (1995) budget plan is our last parachute. If we don't use it, it will be the end," he told reporters at the conference in Cernobbio.

Dr. Martino, a political economics professor whose father signed for Italy in 1952 at the founding of a fledgling European Union, said his country would not be relegated to second string.

"Italy is not a B series country," he told Italian state radio. Dr. Martino added that countries' public debt should not be used as a measuring stick of economic strength.

"Belgium's deficit is worse than Italy's," he said. Italy's public debt is estimated to be \$1.15 trillion.

Giorgio Napolitano, a member and former speaker of parliament's lower house said the government should consider the CDU's call a warning bell.

"It is a strong sign of alarm and a very strong call for the necessity of serious decisions to clean up public finance," he said.

The Italian government announced last month that it was hoping to present the budget to parliament by end September.

The budget aims to save \$33 billion in the next two years and is expected to include radical cuts in pensions and health spending.

At the Cernobbio conference, international and Italian economists criticised Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi for not doing enough to reign in public debt since he was sworn in four months ago.

"Italy's government has been given a mandate by the people but it is dissipating it in the worst way possible," said American economist Rudiger Dornbusch who teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"In the key sectors of the national economy where there should have been courageous and rapid decisions taken nothing has been done, absolutely nothing," he said.

Romania might privatise oil processing sector

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's main oil refining company has said the oil processing sector might be short-listed for privatisation under a government scheme aiming to put thousands of firms in private hands this year.

"The sector is on the right track. We believe our oil processing units will be put on the privatisation list," Emil Calota, deputy managing director of the Rafrom Holding Company for oil refining and petrochemicals, told Reuters.

Romania's minority government, under pressure to speed up privatisation, recently announced plans to sell off some 3,000 state-run enterprises in a vouchers-for-shares scheme.

Last month the government said it would approve in September a list of privatisation candidates based on profitability criteria.

"All units in the processing sector recorded a good economic performance in 1993, so they fully qualify as potential candidates for privatisation," Mr. Calota said.

State-owned Rafrom S.A. is formed by 24 enterprises, which include 11 refineries, the Constanta port terminal and the network for petrochemicals distribution across Romania.

Mr. Calota said a government-coordinated project was currently under way to trim Romania's crude oil processing capacity to some 18 million tonnes per year from 34 million.

"It is completely uneconomical for us to show off with 34 million tonnes per year

paraded by the (former) communist regime," Mr. Calota said.

The project would boost the refineries' operational performance and solve problems related to extended downtime, energy conservation and the local environment, he said.

Under the privatisation scheme, which needs parliament's approval, Romanians will be able to get shares in exchange for pre-share vouchers and privatisation coupons, distributed to reflect the value of the former socialist enterprises.

Romania says it spent \$12 billion in the 1970s to finance the construction of giant oil refineries and chemical plants.

That investment, based on assumptions of cheap energy and a vast Soviet market, is now a burden for cash-strapped Romania because the Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon has fallen apart.

Romania imported 5.7 million tonnes of crude oil in 1993, National Statistics Board (NSB) data show.

In 1994, the Balkan country's crude oil imports would amount to some 12 million tonnes, Rafrom sources said.

To try to boost crude output, the ex-communist state has signed concession deals with big Western oil firms for exploration of onshore fields.

A 1992 oil and gas law allowed foreign investors in the oil sector five-year profit tax holiday and tax exemptions on oil and gas exports from Romania, as well as repatriation of profits from the sale of oil and gas found.

Indian exporters air complaints

BOMBAY (AFP) — India's expanding exports are set to run into rough weather because of rising inflation, poor infrastructure and official apathy, exporters here say.

Exports in the fiscal year 1993-94 — the third year of India's sweeping economic reforms — totalled \$22.17 billion marginally above target and marking a 20.4 per cent rise over the previous year.

But Nityakrishna Goyal, chairman of the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO), said he was not sure if the 1994-95 exports would match last year's figures.

"I am not very confident," he said in an interview. "I would be very happy if we manage to reach the previous level."

Mr. Goyal mocked Indian government claims of ushering in an exporter-friendly regime since launching a policy of economic liberalisation in July 1991.

"Nothing has changed," he said. "We have to go through the same officials who interpret rules at their whims and

fancies. All reforms are only on paper. Nothing has filtered down. I have given up all hopes of our exports growing. This country is so big and you have this monster of bureaucracy still running wild, wanting only kickbacks."

Mr. Goyal, whose FIEO groups leading exporters, said rising costs of raw materials, miles of red tape in New Delhi — where all major decisions are made — and poor infrastructure were strangling Indian exports.

"Our roads are in a terrible shape that we are not sure of goods reaching on time," Mr. Goyal rued. "Our ports are unable to handle all the traffic."

"Our telephones are in a mess. We have armies of officials wanting their 'cuts'... It is all so frustrating. Overseas customers are not dying for Indian goods. Many do not want to do any business with India."

Mr. Goyal's views are widely shared by many exporters, who complain that the bureaucracy still behaves

like it did when New Delhi was governed by decades of closed-market, quasi-socialist economic regimes.

But most exporters who spoke to AFP requested anonymity.

Mr. Goyal said Indian exports boomed in the last three years because the government devalued the rupee against the dollar. Since 1991, the rupee's value to the dollar has fallen from 17 rupees to 31.25 rupees.

"This (devaluation) had offset the rise in costs, making Indian products competitive," Mr. Goyal said. "But the rupee has been stable for more than one year and costs are up along with inflation."

Hitesh Jani, another exporter, was equally hard-hitting.

"The officials want us to keep running to them all the time," he said. "So they keep everything secret. It is a mockery. We exporters are simply fed up of all this."

An Indian official last week shared the exporters' concern.

Tejinder Khanna, the top

official in the commerce ministry, told a seminar attended by industrialists that his department was concerned about the slowdown in exports.

He said the export rate in the first quarter of 1994-95 (April-June) was only 9.5 per cent. And while chemicals, plastics, pharmaceuticals and auto parts had done well, textiles, engineering goods and spices had fared poorly.

"The rules for exporters are still stiff," Mr. Khanna said.

Mr. Goyal said Indian exports were outpriced by tougher Asian rivals like China.

"I am afraid India will be pushed out of the world market," he said, adding that despite all the economic reforms, old rules and regulations still in force were coming in the way of an export-friendly environment.

India's share in the world market in 1993 was 0.4 per cent, a sharp fall from the two per cent in 1947 when the country became independent.

Ethiopia leader defends development programme

ADDIS ABABA (R) — President Meles Zenawi said Ethiopia's World Bank recommended structural adjustment programme was the only viable way to revive the economy devastated by years of civil war and Marxist dictatorship.

"It was imperative to implement the structural adjustment programme to uplift an economy bankrupted by years of civil war and wrong policies," Mr. Meles told a news conference in Addis Ababa.

Marxist policies of deposed dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam bankrupted Ethiopia and destroyed agricultural production causing huge food shortages exacerbated by drought.

Liberal economic policies implemented by the transitional government since 1992 have helped to revive the economy, which registered 7.5 per cent growth in 1993.

Mr. Meles rejected allegations that the programme was imposed upon Ethiopia by

the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"We introduced the structural adjustment programme because we believed it was the only viable programme to uplift the ailing economy," he added.

The independent Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions has criticised the programme saying it meant a "massive retrenchment" of workers.

Mr. Meles also said the devaluation of the birr currency from 2.07 to five to the

U.S. dollar had encouraged peasant farmers to produce more cash crops, like coffee and oil seeds.

"Because of the devaluation, Ethiopia was able to earn more foreign currency from its export commodities — which helps the country to implement its development programme," he said.

Mr. Meles said the annual inflation rate had been cut from 22 per cent during the past government to 10 per cent now.

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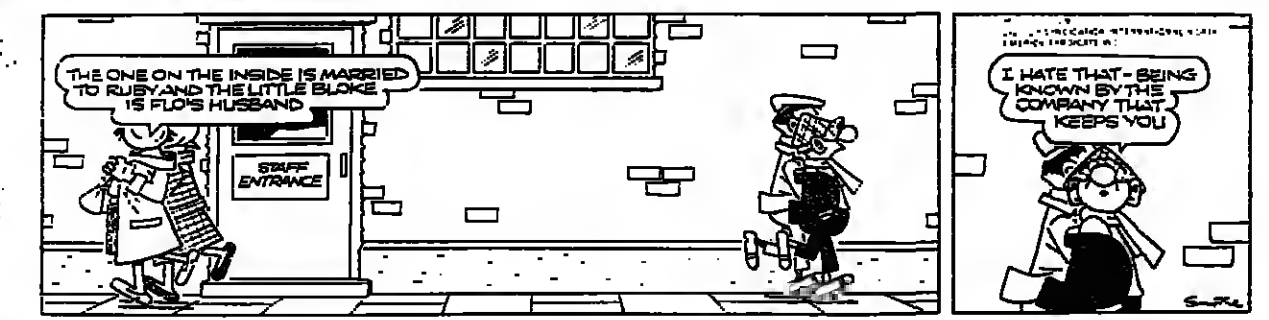
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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIKER ANISE PRIMED TUNEDO

Answer: The part of the book the surgeon liked best — THE APPENDIX

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Virgo on Labour Day sextiles Jupiter and Mars providing good emotional and physical health as well as opportunities for material enterprises. It is a good time for business too.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Work on the new ideas you were inspired with yesterday. Avoid arguments with others. Control your tongue and temper around your loved one.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get an early start on organising your work load and travel plans. Control your temper and gain the upper hand with higher-ups in authority.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Talk over with someone how you can become more successful, and then follow their good advice. Be more understanding with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try to please those you want as allies in the future. Rectify mistakes quickly. Contact a good friend this evening.

LEO: (June 22 to August 21) Get your important tasks done first. You can be with friends later. Don't be too stingy around your loved ones. Be tactful with your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't fly off the handle at home or you will get into trouble. It is not wise to keep entertaining to the wee hours. Be practical.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get your tasks done in an orderly fashion. Don't argue with fellow associates over some unimportant detail. Be cooperative.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Use tact with allies, and don't make any radical changes they would not appreciate. Take no risks which could prove costly.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Ignore temptation to go out and spend lavishly; it is best to be economical. Make any needed repairs now before they get costly.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't go off on any tangents; carry through with your plans. Be certain friends are loyal. Take no risks with your credit.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Stop worrying about things you can't do anything about. This is not the day to settle that problem with the one you love; think about it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look to an older pal for the assistance you may need. Make sure you are not too demanding with your wishes. Be tactful.

Birthstones of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword by Gayle Doan

ACROSS

- Stock market
- Stagehand
- Monstrous
- Minor
- Slack order
- New York governor
- Mutant snake?
- Lowest hangout?
- Holiday time
- Mutual
- Delamere
- Swi.
- Not sound
- River into the North Sea
- Dr. 'top
- Baroque for a lark
- Guinness
- Mutant elephant?
- Star at
- Expenditure
- Pleasant
- Quilt chubby
- Tiny
- Castle defense
- Numerical prefix
- Arctic
- Germanic god
- Rough
- Melny wraps
- Hotbrook or Larkin
- Tobacco
- Mutant bat?
- Variegated chalcid
- A Gardner
- Pichonius bird
- Bull's Sp.
- 60's chest
- Shepherd's purse, for one
- Leaf
- Slender leaf
- Opera song
- Scope
- Customary
- Zodiac sign
- Not ecclesiastical
- Disc

DOWN

- Critical remarks
- Customer
- Zodiac sign
- Not ecclesiastical
- Disc
- Flood cover
- Entry entrance
- Feave
- Jeany
- Participating
- Mesa's tin
- Marche
- August
- High points
- Chase
- Red Sea
- penetrable
- Special groove
- Handcuffs
- Metastatic cloth
- 30 lip pierce
- Playmate at SGO
- Throb
- Shed's best
- Leaf
- Slender leaf
- Opera song
- Scope
- Customary
- Zodiac sign
- Not ecclesiastical
- Disc
- AMEX deals
- Showerhead
- Blackboard need
- Boothe Lucas
- Rule Valley
- Go astray
- City
- Hit hard
- Jeany's gallery
- Home for
- 310
- Go astray
- City

Business & Finance

Foreign Exchange Market

(August 29 - September 4)

The dollar depreciated against the pound and the Swiss franc, while the yen advanced against the dollar. The dollar fell 1.5 percent against the yen, the pound fell 1.2 percent, and the Swiss franc fell 0.8 percent. The dollar also fell against the German mark, the French franc, and the Italian lira.

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French Franc	0.1305	0.1312
Japanese Yen*	0.7000	0.7035
Dutch Guilder	0.3982	0.4002
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0443	0.0445
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

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Chen leads another Chinese one-two at World Swimming Championships

ROME (R) — Chen Lilia won the women's one-metre springboard title ahead of compatriot Tan Shuping as China confirmed its supremacy in diving at the World Swimming Championships on Sunday.

Goodwill Games champion Chen, 19, took gold with a total score of 379.30 points from her five dives on a sunlit afternoon at the Foro Italico. Tan produced the highest scoring dive of the final — an inward 2½ somersault — with her last effort to snatch silver from Canadian Commonwealth champion Annie Pelletier.

Tan scored 276.00 points to the 273.84 totalled by the French-Canadian. American Cheryl Santini (261.72) was the one to miss out on a medal in the four-woman final.

The medals took China's tally to five from three diving finals. Olympic champion Fu Mingxia retained her platform title Saturday, beating compatriot Chi Bin into second place.

Favourite Lan Wei had to settle for silver in the men's one-metre springboard Friday. Zimbabwean Evan Ste-

wart pushing him into second.

The Chinese won four of six titles at the last world championships and three out of four in the 1992 Olympics. The one-metre springboard is not an Olympic event.

Chen, who said she trains some eight hours per day, put her success down to old fashioned hard work.

"I don't think I have any secrets," she said, adding that the Chinese never feared losing.

Pelletier said the Chinese were mentally and physically stronger than their oppo-

nents. "There are some athletes who are now able to get close to them. But they are very strong both mentally and physically and they work harder than anyone else," she said.

Unfortunately for Pelletier, there is no sign of the Chinese easing up with 17-year-old Tan promising to work harder to improve on her second place.

"I think my failure to win today shows I have not trained hard enough. I will train harder when I get home," Tan said.



WORLD CHAMP: Puerto Rican Daniel Jimenez is crowned world super bantamweight out local hero Harry Geier after 19 seconds (AFP photo)

Regent receives taekwondo delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received at his house the Jordanian national taekwondo team which will represent the Kingdom at the Asian Games to open in Hiroshima, Japan later this month.

Prince Hassan, who heads the Higher Council for Self-Defence Sports, expressed hope that the team's participation in the Hiroshima Games would herald a new start for the Jordanian youth in sports events.

He said the team's camp, which will start in Taiwan Monday in preparation for the games, will mark that start if the team members employ all their capabilities during the remaining period before the games.

Deputy Chairman of the Higher Council for Self-Defence Sports Issa Al Rimoni briefed the Crown Prince on the team's plans, saying that they include holding four training camps, two of them already held in Jordan and one in Turkey, while the fourth was just about to start in Taiwan. Mr. Rimoni noted that Jordan will next year host the first Arab taekwondo championships.

He said that Jordan has 57 taekwondo training centres where more than 70,000 youths are training, pointing out that Jordanian taekwondo national teams have thus far won 359 gold, silver and bronze medals at various international championships.

On Saturday, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), meeting in Paris, approved making taekwondo an Olympic sport as part of the 2,000 Olympic Games to be hosted by Sydney, Australia.

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Winning trainer, Andre Fabre, who trains Ski Paradise on behalf of leading Japanese owner Teruya Yoshida, said: "Yutaka Take did a very good job today."

Take said: "We won very easily. I have won many group races in Japan but this was one of my biggest moments."

Cash Asmussen, East of the Moon's rider, said: "She failed to show the lightning acceleration so evident in the Jacques Le Marois."

Francois Boutin was inclined to blame himself for East of the Moon's defeat, with the French trainer affirming: "Maybe I have been a little easy on her since her brilliant win at Deauville." He has not decided whether she will travel to Ascot for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Organisers of Asian Games fear China's boycott threat

TOKYO (R) — A tense countdown started Sunday to next month's Asian Games in Hiroshima with no solution in sight to China's threat to boycott the event because Taiwan's president has been invited.

With only four weeks left until the Oct. 2 opening ceremony, Japanese officials have been unable so far to come up with a diplomatic way of telling Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui that he is just not welcome at this time.

Games organisers are worried that time is running out to put the finishing touches on staging Asia's biggest sporting event because of uncertainty about China's participation.

The invitation to Lee was issued by the Olympic Council

of Asia (OCA). "We strongly hope that the issue will be settled through talks as soon as possible," a games official said.

If China, the biggest foreign team, stays away it would be a financial, public relations and sporting disaster for the atomic-bomb scarred city of Hiroshima, which plans to use the event as a coming out party for its tragic past.

A record total 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations are due to take part in the quadrennial sports event from Oct. 2 to 16, competing in 337 events in 34 sports.

The invitation to Lee was issued by the Olympic Council

of Asia (OCA). If the OCA does not withdraw it, Japanese sources said a compromise might be worked out whereby Taiwan Deputy Prime Minister Hsu Il-Teb would visit Hiroshima as a private citizen instead of Lee.

The sources said there were precedents for private visits to Tokyo by Taiwan's cabinet ministers.

Taiwan, however, shows no sign of backing down easily. Prime Minister Lien Chan was quoted Saturday by the country's central news agency as saying that Lee should attend the games opening ceremony as a head of state.

Inclusion of taekwondo in Olympics rekindles dispute

PARIS (AP) — The inclusion of taekwondo in the 2000 Sydney Olympics rekindles a simmering dispute between rival taekwondo federations over recognition, prestige and millions of dollars in funding.

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) executive board decided Saturday to recommend inclusion of taekwondo, a Korean form of martial art, to the Sydney programme.

The Seoul, South Korea-based World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) is the only taekwondo association recognised by the IOC and thus eligible for IOC and National Olympic Committee funding.

The rival International Taekwondo Federation (ITF) based in Vienna, Austria, says it is older and should have at least equal recognition and funding. It is willing to talk about a merger of the federations or forming an umbrella organisation, said Tom McCallum, one of the ITF's undersecretary generals.

One obstacle to a compromise is that WTF founder and President Kim Un-Yong of South Korea is a vice president of the IOC.

The IOC recognised the WTF in 1981, according to MacCallum. "Since that time we have tried to seek justice," he said. "Of course over the years we have had no access to IOC funding."

He estimated the financial support to taekwondo from the IOC and national Olympic committees in the millions of dollars.

While the ITF was founded in 1966, the WTF wasn't established until 1973, MacCallum said. The WTF is aligned with South Korea, while the ITF was founded by former South Korean army Gen. Choi Hong-Hi but includes officers from communist North Korea.

The two countries have been bitter rivals since the 1950-53 Korean War. "The ITF is international, not North Korea or South Korea," said Li Yong Gil, a North Korean and the ITF's

other undersecretary general. "The WTF is using taekwondo politically."

MacCallum said the ITF seeks a merger similar to that of rival karate federations facilitated and recognised by the IOC.

Questioned at the centennial Olympic Congress in Paris, the WTF's Kim said he had no comment and refused to take questions on the matter.

IOC Director General Francois Carrard said, "there is an IOC-recognised federation, and the president of that recognised federation has said the door is open to a solution."

Carrard said the IOC had "no position whatsoever" on whether the two taekwondo federations should merge.

The ITF gets financial support from members' dues only, and none from governments, MacCallum said.

The type of taekwondo practised by the WTF and thus at the Olympics is full-

Sports barons win places on IOC

PARIS (R) — Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch overcame a revolt by rank-and-file IOC members Sunday and won seats on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the barons of the world's major sports federations.

On the first day of its 103rd session the IOC decided that Samaranch, as its president, could nominate up to 10 new members, IOC officials said.

The more amounts to one of the most significant changes of IOC rules in its 100-year history, widening the membership of perhaps the world's most exclusive club.

But in what participants said was a stormy debate, IOC members forced their leader to drop an earlier proposal which would have given the Spaniard the right to name the new members without the approval of his IOC colleagues.

"It was a bloody big battle," one IOC member said.

Under a rewrite of the Olympic charter, Samaranch will nominate up to 10 new members for either their "function" or their "particu-

lar qualifications." IOC Director-General Francois Carrard said it was expected the heads of international sports federations would get almost all the new places.

"The president has said time and again... that it is fundamental to the strength of the Olympic movement that its major components are represented in the heart of the IOC," Carrard told reporters.

Under the compromise rule change, Samaranch's nominees have to be approved by the existing 88 members of the IOC. All 10 also have to come from 10 different countries — avoiding the risk of new national or regional power blocs on the committee.

Carrard said members elected under the new rule would have to quit the IOC if they lost their other posts as head of major sports federations.

IOC members said the revolt against Samaranch's original proposal was led by the doyen of the IOC, 73-year-old Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg.

The members said the grand duke, an IOC member since 1946, won the support of 27 members for his proposal for a secret ballot blocking the proposal.

The compromise appeared to be reached during a midday coffee break during which Samaranch and his lieutenants on the ruling executive board huddled together to discuss their tactics.

IOC members said that once the session resumed, the compromise was proposed by Germany's Thomas Bach — at Samaranch's request. The call for a secret ballot was dropped and the compromise accepted unanimously.

Traditionally IOC members, spread thinly around the globe, represent the IOC in their own countries rather than representing a particular constituency or country on the IOC.

But Samaranch, pushed by world athletics chief Primo Nebiolo, has long wanted to give international federations a greater voice within the IOC itself.

So keen were IOC leaders

to promote the "unity" of the Olympic movement, that they decided Friday to rename last week's Olympic Congress the "congress of unity."

"We are very pleased by this decision. I think it shows that the re-baptised 'congress of unity' is not just a word in the air," Carrard told reporters.

Eight major sports federation chiefs are already members of the IOC, including football's Joao Havelange, skiing's Marc Hodler and boxing's Anwar Chowdhry.

Nebiolo, the Italian who has made athletics one of the world's most lucrative sports, was appointed to the IOC

two years ago under a special procedure foreshadowing Sunday's decision and is the only current member never to have been elected by his colleagues on the IOC.

Carrard said federation presidents would still have the opportunity to become old-style IOC members, who have a job until the age of 75, by virtue of their position within their national Olympic committees, for example.

Harkes calls bonus an 'insult'; England says it was U.S. idea

LONDON (AP) — American striker John Harkes said Saturday it was an "insult" that the English Football Association (FA) was offering exhibition game next Wednesday.

The remark came as a British newspaper reported U.S. and English officials trading barbs over whose idea the bonus was in the first place.

Harkes, who is likely to play in the U.S. team's first-ever appearance at Wembley Stadium if he is fully recovered from a calf strain, said that pride would be motivation enough for himself and his teammates.

"I don't think we need to be offered some cash sum to come out and play," said Harkes, who plays for the England club Derby. "I think it's more or less an insult for

us to be offered money."

When the FA announced the bonus earlier this week, it said the money was an incentive for the Americans to make the game more competitive. England, host and therefore automatic qualifier for the 1996 European Championship, will be searching for quality opponents for exhibition matches over the next 16 months as the rest of Europe goes through the qualifying process.

FA spokesman David Davies later said the bonus idea had come from U.S. officials as a compromise in negotiations over the match fee.

But that was a claim denied by U.S. team spokesman Jim Froslied in Saturday's edition of the Sun newspaper.

"It was nothing to do with

us," Froslied was quoted as saying. "America has never played at Wembley. It is a great honour and we would have come for nothing."

Davies reacted angrily to the article. "I object vehemently to being referred to effectively as a liar without any chance to reply before that story was published," Davies said. "I have absolutely no intention of getting into a public debate about who said what, to whom and when during what were obviously private negotiations."

The game will be the first meeting between the teams since the United States' 2-0 victory in the U.S. Cup in Boston last year, one of the most embarrassing losses in English soccer history.

Sampdoria crushes Padua 5-0

ROME (AFP) — Sampdoria made a dream start to the Italian football season Sunday, with a 5-0 thrashing of newly-promoted Padua.

But the match was a nightmare debut for Alexi Lalas, the American central defender signed by Padua in a blaze of publicity after his flowing flame-haired locks and goatee beard were a feature of the World Cup.

Sampdoria, who many expected to struggle after Ruud Gullit's return to AC Milan, opened the scoring in the 12th minute through Roberto Mancini, with Albergo Evanini making it 2-0 just before half-time.

England captain David Platt, playing a superb opening game, added a third. Serbian Vladimir Mihajlovic, signed from AS Roma, made it 4-0 and another new signing, Alessandro Meili, also scored on his debut with an 81st minute penalty.

Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp added Inter Milan's second in the 90th minute as they beat Torino 2-0, and Gabriel Batistuta, who had so successfully linked up with Diego Maradona, bagged both as Fiorentina finished 2-1 winners over Cagliari.

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Regent receives taekwondo delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Highness Prince Hassan, the Regent of Jordan, received a delegation of the Jordanian national taekwondo team which will represent the Kingdom at the Hiroshima, Japan later this month.

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Qatar soccer team to visit Gaza Strip

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — A Qatari soccer team will play a Palestinian squad in the autonomous areas this week, the first such games in 27 years, sports officials said Sunday.

Nafiz Al Rantawi, a member of the Palestinian sports coordination committee at the PLO mission here, said Qatar's Al Wakra Sports Club will play two matches against the Jabaliya Club of the Gaza Strip.

Rantawi said the Qatari, who plan to arrive in the West Bank town of Jericho Thursday, were waiting for Israeli permission to enter the autonomous Palestinian zones. The team is currently in Iraq playing against clubs there.

He said the team of 31 players and officials is headed by club President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, a member of Qatar's ruling family.

Younis Abdul Rahman, spokesman for the Qatari Embassy in Amman, confirmed Al Wakra's four-day visit.

It was not immediately clear if the Qataris will

play any matches with Israeli squads.

The Qataris are the first Arab soccer players to visit the autonomous areas since 1967, when Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip with other Arab land in the 1967 Middle East war.

Qatar has been responsive to Israeli overtures following the Sept. 1993 peace accord signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Jewish state under which Palestinians were granted partial self-rule.

Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al Thani, has held several meetings with his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, since the U.S.-sponsored peace talks began in 1991.

Qatar has said that discussions with Israel focused on future relations and cooperation. But many Qatari officials, including the foreign minister, insist that normalising relations with Israel are not possible until the 1993 accord is fully implemented.

Romero wins European Masters

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, Switzerland (AP) — Argentina's Eduardo Romero kept his vice-like grip on the European Masters right through to the final round here on Sunday, winning the golf tournament by one stroke.

Romero, 40, who had opened with a first round 64 and gone on to card a 68, 66 and a final round 68, finished on a 22-under-par total of 266, one shot clear of Sweden's Pierre Fulke.

Third place was shared by defending champion Barry Lane of England, Scotland's Sam Torrance and Frenchman Jean Van de Velde on 19 under, with Nick Faldo and Martin Gates one stroke further back in joint sixth.

It was Romero's second victory of the season, after the Italian Open in May, and it cocked a snook at his British, Swedish and Spanish rivals who had all hoped to win the first European Ryder Cup qualifying tournament.

Romero's win, the seventh of his career, was easier than the one-stroke margin suggested. He led by four strokes after the 10th hole and even though his lead was halved at the 12th and Fulke made a late rally, the Argentine had a three-stroke lead when he arrived at the par-four last.

"This is the biggest win of my career," he said.

NEW YORK (AP) — They were the perfect antidote to slam-bang tennis. Andre Agassi, winning in three sweet sets, Michael Chang in just one and a half, each showing why baseliners are dominating this year's U.S. Open.

The way they played Saturday, Agassi and Chang looked as if they were sharpening up for the final. Too bad one must bump off the other in the round of 16.

Agassi beat the tougher opponent, no. 12 Wayne Ferreira, 7-5, 6-1, 7-5, and he did it in thoroughly convincing fashion. Ferreira was so frustrated he was reduced to childish fits of racket-throwing and ball-whacking.

Chang was equally in command of his match but got away in half the time when Jim Grabb retired with an aggravated shoulder injury while trailing 6-1, 4-1. Chang played his best tennis so far, serving like a bigger man and chasing down almost everything.

It is no coincidence that Agassi and Chang are playing so well. So, too, are other baseliners like no. 3 Sergi Bruguera, who beat his Marc Goellner 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (4-6) and no. 13 Thomas Muster, who beat Thomas Enqvist 6-0, 6-4, 6-2. Richey Reneberg, an unseeded baseliner who upset Boris Becker in the first round, reached the fourth round with a 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 victory over Richard Fromberg.

No. 9 Todd Martin, a classic serve-and-volleyer, struggled through five sets in the first round. He's stayed back more ever since, and on Saturday night he

Agassi, Chang advance at U.S. Open



Andre Agassi

approached the net about half as often as Patrick Rafter in beating him 7-5, 6-3, 6-7 (3-6).

The same pattern has developed on the women's side. Defending champion Steffi Graf is coming in only on short balls, and she saw a lot of those as she put away 23 of 24 net approaches in a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Radka Bobkova. Graf had a loose bleed in practice but experienced

no trouble during the match. No. 4 Mary Pierce, who practically lives on the baseline, beat Judith Wiesner 6-2, 6-4.

No. 6 Lindsay Davenport tried rushing the net, but was too slow and got caught out of position too often as she converted only 22 of 33 approaches in a 6-3, 7-6 (7-1) loss to no. 44-ranked Mana Endo.

No. 7 Jana Novotna, who

charges the net at Wimbledon, mostly stayed back to beat Patricia Hy 6-1, 6-2. The same was true of no. 11 Amanda Coetzer, who beat Mariana de Swardt 6-1, 6-3, and Magdalena Maleeva, who beat Shann Stafford 6-3, 7-6 (7-3).

The hardcourts and slightly fuzzier balls are a little slower this year, creating a nice balance between the speed of Wimbledon's grass and the rusty, dusty rallies of the French Open's clay.

"If you take the atmosphere out of it, and some of the hecklers, this is certainly the fairest court because you can serve and volley unlike on clay, but you can stay back," Martin said. "It gives everybody an equal shot at winning the tournament."

"If you hit a good volley, then it is a good volley. If you don't hit a good volley, then you're going to pay for it sometimes. And that's the way tennis should be. That is what all the complaints were about at Wimbledon. But it's hard to make a grass court slow. It's much easier to make a hardcourt slow, and they've come up with a pretty good composition of court and ball."

Even serve-and-volleyers like defending champion Pete Sampras are taking notice, staying back more instead of rushing in as they do all the time at Wimbledon. Sampras has the ability to play different ways, so the subtle change of speed this year shouldn't affect him. For Becker, the changes surprised him and drove him out quickly.

Agassi, unseeded with a

no. 20 ranking, is thriving here so far, though getting past Chang won't be easy. "Michael is playing some great tennis and I am definitely going to have my hands full against him," Agassi said. "But when I am hitting the ball well, concentrating this well, I like my chances against anybody."

"I wasn't scared to take chances at the right time (against Ferreira). I'm using all parts of my game right now. That's when I'm playing my best tennis, when I'm using the angles and the lines."

A year ago, Agassi lost here in the first round. He reached the final in 1990, only to get crushed by Sampras.

"When you compete at a high level, then you want the players to respect you for what you can do and you want them to fear having you on their side of the draw," Agassi said. "When you go out here and you take guys as good as Wayne and you can beat him handily, it is such a confident feeling for me."

Chang won't take Agassi for granted but is feeling pretty confident himself after boosting the power in his game with upper body work and practice on his serve. Getting off easy against Grabb didn't hurt.

"Sometimes if you play a five-set match it can really take its toll on you, physically," Chang said. "Then all of a sudden, things start to hurt here and there. I am actually going to go out and hit a little bit more because I've come from having two days off, so I want to be able to try to stay sharp."

Teens in tennis: Commission report should shake things up

NEW YORK (AP) — When the Women's Tennis Commission's age eligibility commission makes its report Sept. 9, one thing is certain. The findings will shake things up.

In a sport that often consumes its young, few issues stir as much controversy as the question of age. How old should a player be before being able to turn pro? At the moment, the limit is 14. The commission is considering raising it, perhaps to 15, maybe to 16. Is that enough? Too much? Just right?

Tennis officials agree there should be some kind of restraint. They're just not sure it is. It is a place to start, though.

Lynne Rolley, the U.S. Tennis Association's director of coaching for women, thinks age is just one part of the issue.

"What I would like to see the commission do, actually the tour do, is have more level of tournaments," she said.

"I'd like to see players prove themselves at every level of the ladder, from juniors to pros before they can move on. I'm not really

concerned about age level. It's more the profession level that worries me."

Rolley wonders how mature 14-year-olds can be. "The problem with a lot of young players is they can play on the court at a high level but they aren't developed socially and emotionally," she said.

Peachy Kellmeyer is director of international operations for the WTA Tour and arranges the tournament commitments for the top players.

"I've always said there's not one 'magic age,' that you can see people handling life on the tour," she said. "There are 14- and 15-year-olds that are mature enough to be on the tour and there are some at 18 who aren't ready."

One of the hot young players waiting to move up is Venus Williams, a 14-year-old from Florida. There was a buzz that she might play at Los Angeles this summer. Kellmeyer was caught in the middle of it.

"I had a lot of pressure on me to contact the Williams family about L.A. and whether

Venus was going to play," she said. "I had pressure from everyone, even the tournament director, who wanted to know. But I didn't contact them. I felt she was a young girl and it would be wrong. I felt my calling even to clarify the possibility of her playing, would be wrong. So we never contacted her."

Martina Navratilova, newly elected president of the Women's Tennis Association, thinks an age limit is proper. "Doesn't it say in the (U.S.) constitution you have to be 16 years old before you can full wages?" she said. The U.S. constitution makes no requirement of being 16 to earn full wages.

"You can't keep people from making a living, but you can prevent them when they're 10 years old. You're supposed to be in school when you're 10 years old."

And that means traditional school, not some tennis academy trying to turn out the next Sampras or Graf. The commission, however, seems prepared to go beyond age. Sports psychologist Jim Locher, who sat on the panel,

promised wide ranging proposals. "The recommendations are going to be much more comprehensive than merely raising age groups or limiting tournaments," he said.

The tennis landscape is littered with physical or emotional problems that derailed promising careers for young players like Americans Jennifer Capriati, Andrea Jaeger and Tracy Austin.

Austin began having back trouble at the age of 12. She reached the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open at age 14 but played a limited schedule, mixing both junior and pro tournaments.

"Nobody should be on the full tour until they complete their high school education," she said.

Was Austin rushed? Some people thought so, watching her use a half-frozen strider to match one or two by mature opponents. Nobody suggested that about Chris Evert, whose career was kept in check until she was 18. Mom Colette Evert doesn't know if they could have resisted the kind of sponsor dollars that are usually too

sed around today, though.

"Who knows what we would have done had this kind of money been there when Chris was 16," she said.

The age question is often perceived as a women's tennis problem. But there are plenty of teen-age boys on the men's tour, as well.

Jim McManus, an ATP Tour official, thinks the solution is simple. "The criteria should be if you can travel the circuit without your parents," he said.

American Lindsay Davenport, at 18 one of the rising young stars of the game, was kept in check by her family. She graduated from high school, went to her prom and

then flew to Wimbledon this year. Pam Shriver liked that approach.

"She did the high school bit, similar to what I did," Shriver said after losing to Davenport at the U.S. Open. "She went to her senior prom. I think I did, too. I don't think many of us playing pro tennis and certainly playing Wimbledon during the same year went to our senior prom."

"I love her parents. I have never met her parents but the fact that I don't know who they are, I think is terrific. I mean it is like the first person inside the top 10 whose parents I have never met and I am crazy about them."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A YAMANI HUSSEIN
Touma Model Services Inc.

RUBBER BRIDGE VS. DUPLICATE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
A K 8 4 2
Q 7 6 5
A 5 3 2
Q 6 4

EAST
K J 10
A 10 8 6 4 2
Q 9 6
J 10 7 5

SOUTH
K Q 7
K 8 4
A K 9 7 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Overcalls are the bread and butter of pairs competition—so much so that, in some circumstances, an expert duplicate dealer will choose a line that risks going down in a cold contract for the sake of an extra trick. Rubber bridge is just the opposite. A sound technician will always take a safety play that may cost a trick or two as long as the contract is guaranteed as a result. Consider this deal.

West's presumptive jump overall did not keep North-South out of a bound three-trump game. Both

of North's bids were forcing, but South refused to take preference with only a doubleton spade and potentially two stoppers in the enemy suit.

At duplicate bridge, correct technique is to win the first trick in hand and cash the ace and queen of clubs. If the suit breaks 3-2 or West has a singleton, however, it will happen most of the time, declarer has 10 fast tricks. When West shows out on the second club, declarer leads a diamond from dummy. If East carelessly follows low, declarer inserts the eight and still comes to nine tricks thanks to the 3-3 diamond split. However, if East plays an honor, declarer will be led to eight tricks.

It does not help East to split the club honors. Declarer wins and, when West shows out, crosses to a diamond and takes the marked finesse for the other club honor.

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Opposition appears lacking viable strategy in fighting battle over peace process

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's fast-paced steps towards reaching a peace treaty with Israel, since the two countries ended their state of war, have left the opposition at a loss to find a more effective language to address its constituents, politicians, observers and ordinary Jordanians say.

Bewildered at the speedy transformation in Jordanian-Israeli relations since His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the Washington Declaration on July 25, the mainly Islamic opposition is now faced with the growing challenge of substantiating their opposition on the peace process.

Observers believe that unless the opposition parties, especially the Islamists, change their political strategy and language, they will remain ineffective in influencing public opinion where peace is concerned.

The opposition's credibility lies in its argument of the necessity to solve the refugees' problem before normalising ties with Israel, according to Deputy Abul Ragheb.

"Jordan should give priority to the problem of refugees and displaced Palestinians who form a large number of Jordan's population. If negotiators take on this mission, the opposition's argument would become groundless," he asserts.

Jordan and Israel have undertaken several confidence building measures between them such as opening the first border crossing linking their port cities of Aqaba and Eilat on Aug. 8, as well as opening direct telephone lines between the two neighbours.

While the opposition has condemned these steps of normalising ties with Israel, the majority of Jordanians supported the Washington Declaration which opened the door for these moves.

A public opinion poll recently conducted by Jordan University's Centre for Strategic Studies showed that 80 per cent of Jordanians supported the declaration, signed by the King and Mr. Rabin in Washington on July 25.



Abdul Karim Kabarti

openly at least," says one prominent politician, adding that the Islamists could risk being totally marginalised if they do not change their opposition strategies.

So far, the Islamists and the other opposition parties have done little more than issue statements of protest against normalising ties with Israel and accusing the government of "jumping into the enemy's lap."

According to Lower House deputy and IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour, Israel's only ambition "is to dominate Jordan and the whole region economically and politically," and that by negotiating with the Israelis "we are inviting them" to do so.



Hamzeh Mansour

that the failure of the peace process would be "utterly catastrophic."

Jordan's economy hit a low after the Gulf crisis as it lost support from the U.S., some European countries and the Gulf states.

"A country with a 20 per cent rate of unemployment has to be pragmatic about matters that threaten its existence," says deputy Abdul Karim Kabarti (Aqaba).

"If peace with Israel means feeding many hungry Jordanians, then I welcome it," adds businessman Tarek Mamoun.

The opinion poll showed that half of those opposing the Washington Declaration do believe that Jordan will benefit economically but are unable to grasp the idea of normalising ties with the Jewish state.



Ali Abul Ragheb

adopt the armed struggle option to regain Jordanian rights. Islamists believe that the occupied territories, taken by Israel by force, can only be regained by force.

Jordan is claiming 380 square kilometres of land occupied by Israel after the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars as well as a bigger share of the water from the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers.

Since the Washington Declaration, Jordanian-Israeli negotiations over water and border issues have not achieved tangible progress, while considerable progress in areas of cooperation and normalisation of ties has been achieved.

The Islamic opposition maintains that it would be "naïve" to believe that Israelis will give back an inch of the land it occupied.

7 killed in weekend clashes in Aden

SANAA (R) — At least seven people were killed in clashes this weekend with armed Muslim zealots trying to impose their will on the Yemeni port of Aden, the capital of a failed secessionist bid earlier this year, residents said.

The city was quiet but tense on Sunday after day-long battles on Saturday that also left eight policemen wounded in clashes with Salafis who have tried to convert Aden by force since it fell to government troops on July 7.

Armed with cannon and machine-guns, the Salafis — their name means "those who want to return to the path of the ancestors" — descended on Aden on Friday from surrounding hills where radical fundamentalist passions are high, residents said.

The Salafis, who were suppressed for years under Aden's former Socialist rulers, bulldozed shrines of Muslim saints which they regard as tantamount to idol-worship, banned in Islam.

One resident contacted from Sanaa said: "Life is gradually returning to normal. Saturday's battle came as a grim reminder of the civil war from which people are still recovering."

Diplomats said the government's decisive confrontation of the zealots might help endear it to the people of Aden who have yet to get over their suspicions of President Ali Abdullah Salih's northern-based government.

The battle came two months after an orgy of killing and looting following the collapse of an attempt by leaders of the southern-based Yemen Socialist Party to break away from the 1990 union of the former North and South Yemens.

They have since focused their efforts to bring the city to heel on three domed shrines in Aden they consider an outrage against their puritanical beliefs, including the 500-year old shrine of Sheikh Aidarous, revered by the people of Aden as their patron saint.

They were also involved in harassment of unveiled women in the streets of the relatively liberal city, the destruction of alcohol, which used to be freely available there, and other acts of religious intolerance.

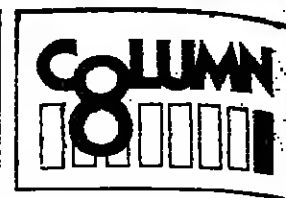
The sources said the Salafis were referred to variously as Jibad, Mujahideen or Wahhabis but this did not necessarily imply links with non-Yemeni Muslim groups with similar names.

Their views were seen as close to those of the puritanical Wahhabi sect of Saudi Arabia and some may have served with the Afghan Mujahideen during the seven-year war against the then Soviet backed government of Kabul.

A Yemeni interior ministry statement on Saturday identified the zealots simply as "irresponsible extremist elements."

Opinion was divided among political and diplomatic sources about possible links with the powerful Islamist Islah Party.

Some said they were a faction within Islah, which is an alliance of Islamic radicals and traditionalists headed by parliamentary speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar, President Saleh's principal ally during the war.



Sign language becomes politically correct

AUCKLAND (AFP) — Sign language for the deaf in New Zealand is being changed so that it no longer uses a limp wrist gesture for gays and a hooked-nose sign for Jews, the Sunday Star-Times reported here. It said Wellington's Victoria University was revising a deaf sign dictionary for the Deaf Association. Instead of the limp wrist sign for "gay," the new language is the middle finger being rounded down to meet and tap the thumb. The sign of "lesbian" was an "L" made by index finger and thumb, touching the chin. "Jew," which used a crooked index finger to indicate a hooked nose, is now made by "stroking" a beard at the chin between thumb and index finger. The old sign for "Chinese" had fingers being used to pull back on the eyes. This has now changed to an inverted "L" across the chest, indicating the traditional high-buttoned "Mao" jacket. "Japanese" is a banana shape indicating the country's shape. New Zealand's deaf are, however, retaining the symbol for German — the raised index finger depicting the pointed helmet of the Kaiser's army. Deaf Association Coordinator Anthony Swindale said other countries were also modifying their sign languages. "It's an awareness that's starting to happen around the deaf community. Members are starting to think what the sign is meaning and sometimes it's derogatory."

Singer gets restraining order

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (AP) — Whitney Houston, star of "The Bodyguard," found life imitating art when she had a get a restraining order against a man she says is stalking her. The order was issued Friday against Charles Gilberg, who claims to be the father of Houston's daughter and has harassed the singer's family at their church. Houston, 30, is married to singer Bobby Brown. It was the second time Houston got a restraining order against him. The first was issued in 1991 after he disrupted a service at the Newark Church her family attends and was arrested. Police were searching for Mr. Gilberg to serve him with the order. In "The Bodyguard," Houston plays a pop singer who hires a bodyguard, played by Kevin Costner, because she is being stalked. Thomas Weisenbeck, Ms. Houston's lawyer, said Mr. Gilberg had stopped harassing the singer for a while, but began again in April 1993. In January, Mr. Gilberg sent a postcard to Ms. Houston saying he was the father of her child and last week he called Ms. Houston's management company to say he would be going to the Newark Church again, Mr. Weisenbeck said.

Man whose wife cut off penis dies

PANAMA CITY (AFP) — A woman enraged by the sight of her husband in bed with two other women cut off his genitals, killing him, police said. Eusebia Moya, 32, told police she used a sharp knife to cut off both the penis and the testicles of her 28-year-old husband Daogoberto Babilonio, who bled to death after he ran outside to call for help. The local press, which closely followed the story of an Ecuadorian woman who cut off her American husband's penis last year, has dubbed her "Panama's Lorena Bobbit."

Circus tiger leaps from ring, kills boy

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A circus tiger jumped out of the ring after defying his trainer and began eating a six-year-old boy who had been watching the show in an Indian town west of Calcutta, a newspaper reported on Sunday. The badly mauled boy died later in hospital. His father was seriously injured in the attack Friday at Chahradharpur, about 275 kilometres west of Calcutta, the Indian Express said. The other spectators ran in panic and the tiger was only returned to his cage with great difficulty, the daily said.

Iraq says spectre of Iranian 'aggression' looms

By Leon Barkho
Reuter

BAGHDAD — A U.N.-brokered ceasefire silenced the guns along the border of Iraq and Iran but has failed to heal the wounds of a ruinous war the two countries fought for eight years.

Memories of the war, started 14 years ago this month, linger on in Iraq. Baghdad lets no occasion slip past without dwelling on the perceived threat Iran's Islamic "trial" regime poses to its security and territorial integrity.

attack on Iran's mullahs. Both countries, locked in ideological and political disputes, have their own dates of when the war broke out. Iraq fixes it on Sept. 4 and Iran on Sept. 22, when Baghdad sent troops to seize chunks of Iranian territory across the border.

"This anniversary keeps reminding us that the danger of the aggressiveness of Khomeinism (Iran) still looms over our eastern borders," said a front-page editorial in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra.

apart. The fate of tens of thousands of prisoners of war (POWs) is among the outstanding issues. Iraq says more than 20,000 of its soldiers, some of whom have been languishing in Iranian jails for more than 15 years, are still held by Tehran.

Tehran gives conflicting figures of its own POWs. It speaks of several thousand. Baghdad says it keeps none. The thorniest issue relates to border incursions, among the root causes that led to the 1980-1988 war.

its southern marshlands on hit and run attacks the insurgents mount on targets in southern Iraq. It also charges that Iran, utilising instability in the Kurdish north, is trying to acquire a foothold in the region. Tehran backs a small but strong group of Kurdish Islamists.

Tehran, in turn, accuses Baghdad of arming its opponents of the exiled Mujahadeen Khalq organisation and providing it with military camps along the international borders. It says it supports Iraq's unity and Baghdad's apprehensions are unfounded and meant to curry favour with the West.

paper Al Jumhouriyah cast doubt on Tehran's claim that it opposed attempts to dismember Iraq.

It said Iran was conspiring against Iraq's unity by backing rebel groups opposing the central authority.

For peace and stability, Iraq demands that Tehran rulers give up what it terms as "the path of aggression, greed and expansion."

Al Thawra said any review of Iraqi policy on the part of Tehran should include the immediate return of POWs and also plans, both civilian and military, which Baghdad flew to Tehran to escape allied bombing during the 1991 Gulf war.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oldest Iranian dies at 153

TEHRAN (AFP) — One of the oldest men in the world has died in Iran aged 153 from natural causes, the official news agency IRNA reported Sunday. Former ironsmith Karbalai Malek-Aran, who was the oldest man in Iran, died Thursday in his hometown of Laili in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, it said. Married seven times, Malek-Aran is survived by 211 children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren, IRNA said. He had been on a diet rich in dairy products and had never suffered any major illness. The agency did not say how the old man's age had been determined, but he is thought to have been one of the oldest people in the world.

900 Muslims expelled in new 'ethnic cleansing'

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Around 900 Muslims have been forced from their homes in northeast Bosnia in the latest wave of ethnic cleansing by Bosnian Serbs, and hundreds more face expulsion before Thursday, the Red Cross said Sunday. The expulsions, from the Bijeljina area on Saturday, were the most widespread since the Serbs carried out similar ethnic cleansing in the area in mid-July. The group had to wait in frontline trenches overnight Saturday before being allowed to cross the confrontation line early Sunday. Red Cross spokesman Lisa Jones said. They were now headed for the nearby Muslim enclave of Tuzla.

Regent calls for interaction

(Continued from page 1)

"The commission, Mr. Qudus has laid down short term solutions for problems facing investors, like proposing simplification of procedures.

Minister of Justice Hisham Tel, another commission member outlined the nature of changes the commission was proposing to modernise laws and legislations.

Acting Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi said that the commission has been entrusted with addressing various aspects of the investment process with a view to stimulating investments and overcoming obstacles impeding its course.

Dr. Kamal Nasser, the Bar Association president, demanded that the Jordanian companies law be amended with a view to developing production and the economy, while Mohammad Asfour, the chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce called for the unification of taxes so as to remove obstacles in the path of investment.

Prince Hassan then recalled a meeting he had with a group of youths ten years ago. The youths, he said, complained about the dominance of material values in the society and sought his advice in the best way to serve their society and country.

"My advice to them was that they should absorb the difference between the meanings and implications of the Great Arab Revolt and the Arab Renaissance, which is one of the most important goals of the Revolt."

"I also told them to work hard and to focus on development as a value, with man as its means and its end" the Crown Prince said.

"And today, as I meet with this distinguished group of people from the various sectors, I would like to share with you the notes I made ten years ago because they are related to production, development and dedication. The same observations constitute a political dialogue which we hope will continue."

The Crown Prince said a productive society, the rule of law, the preservation of public funds, community development, and modernisation of law, are all values that Jordan struggles to achieve.

Israel to allow 44 PNC members into autonomous Palestinian areas

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Israel will allow 44 PLO leaders into the self-rule territories to the Palestine National Council convene to abrogate clauses in the PLO charter calling for the Jewish state's destruction, officials said Sunday.

The Palestinians are all members of the 80-strong Revolutionary Council, the highest decision-making body in Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction. It is the largest group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

All its members also sit on the PNC, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile and the only body empowered to amend the 1964 charter.

Any amendment to that document must be endorsed by two-thirds of the PNC members, who represent all the PLO's factions.

July the PNC could convene in Gaza with all its members, including those Israel had wanted banned as former guerrillas.

Many Tunis-based Fatah leaders have bitterly objected to changing the charter before the Israelis recognise the Palestinians right to an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Syrian-based radical Palestinian factions, some of which are represented on the PNC, have also denounced the move as "surrenderist."

Although Mr. Arafat has moved his headquarters to the autonomous Gaza Strip, the PLO's foreign relations department remains in the Tunisian capital where the movement was headquartered from 1982.

Mr. Arafat has not formally requested the council meeting yet. But newspaper reports in Tunis quoted sources close to the PLO leader in Gaza as saying he plans to convene the session in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, Mahmoud Abbas, the senior PLO leader who signed the self-rule accord with Israel in Washington a year ago and a staunch supporter of the peace process, plans to leave Tunis to live in the autonomous territories next week.

Aides said he will fly to Amman Monday and go to Jericho a few days later.

They said Mr. Abbas will not be involved with the Palestine National Authority, which will govern the self-rule areas until parliamentary elections are held.

of the Jewish new year, with security officials warning Israelis to be extra vigilant due to threats by extremists.

Both orthodox Jews were rushed to Hadassah hospital where officials said one was moderately injured and the other lightly. The victims were over 30 and their names were not released.

The victims attacked at the Damascus Gate entrance.

Appeals court rejects challenge to conference

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — An Egyptian appeals court upheld on Sunday the government's right to stage a U.N. population conference that Muslim fundamentalist lawyers had challenged as sinful.

The ruling by the three-judge administrative court of appeals — which was expected — came a day before the start of the 10-day International Conference on Population and Development. The meeting, expected to draw 15,000 participants from around the world, has been planned for years.

Muslim fundamentalists contend the conference's draft proposals support abortion, homosexuality and sex education and would encourage promiscuous sex outside marriage. They condemn all those as anathema to Islam.

new Abdul Halim Mandour told the Associated Press his principal aim in filing the case was "to show the world that the Egyptian people reject defiling their soil with homosexuals and whores."

But he said: "Even if the court issues a verdict in our favour, it will not be implemented."

In the court, Mr. Mandour told the judges he did not care whether they ruled against him. "This is not a personal case," he said. "It is the case of the Egyptian people and the Egyptian judiciary."

Mr. Mandour and his colleagues won Sunday another case against the government fought on religious grounds. The appellate court rejected an appeal by the minister of education, seeking to reinstate his order that Egyptian schoolgirls must have their parents' permission to wear Islamic veils in the classroom.

The lower court annulled the order by Education Minister Hussein Bahaaeddine 12 days ago, on the premise that he overstepped his authority by prescribing school uniforms and involving himself in families' private affairs. It also said the order violated the Sharia, or Islamic law.

Two Israelis stabbed in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian assailants knifed two Jewish men in the back Sunday as they were walking to holiday prayers in the walled old city of Jerusalem, police said.

Police promptly sealed all entrances to the old city, the main tourist attraction in Jerusalem, while searching for the assailants.

The attack came on the eve

Hamas activist killed

HEBREW (AP) — A Hamas activist was killed Sunday in a shooting in the West Bank, Israeli officials said. The activist, 30, was shot by Israeli soldiers near the town of Ramatallah. He was identified as a member of the Hamas militant group. The group has been fighting against Israeli occupation since 1987.

Jewish extremists

By Allen Fisher
The Associated Press

— Jewish extremists in Israel have threatened to attack the PLO headquarters in Gaza if the organization does not withdraw its forces from the West Bank. The extremists, who are part of the far-right Kach movement, said they would launch a "massacre" in Gaza if the PLO does not comply with their demands. The PLO has repeatedly rejected these threats, stating that it is committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.